STOURBRIDGE
CHRONICLE

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BYE BEARDS

Friends lose their whiskers for charity

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ART SHOW

Black Country scenes go on display

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NEW MOVE TO EXTEND METRO

LONG-STALLED plans to create a second Midland Metro line serving the Merry Hill Centre will be considered at a meeting this week.

Tram lines and light rail services connecting more of the Black Country with Wolverhampton and Birmingham are to be considered by transport chiefs.

By Daniel Wainwright

The West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority, which was due to meet yesterday (Wednesday), was considering reviving the second Midland Metro line to connect the Merry Hill Centre with Wednesbury along the old Stourbridge freight line.

It follows revived interest in a line linking Wolverhampton rail station with New Cross Hospital.

Options include 'very light rail' similar to the £20 million plan for 'tram trains' to link Dudley Port station in Tipton to the site of Dudley's former station at the bottom of Castle Hill, serving Dudley Zoo, Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust.

Priority

A report to council leaders says it is re-visiting plans with 'the first stated priority being the Walsall to Stourbridge corridor to provide high-quality access to Merry Hill and Brierley Hill'.

The report reveals legal powers remain in place to allow the line to be built 'although to date it has not proved possible to secure funding'.

It adds: "In recognition of the difficulties in securing funding, the potential for Very Light Rail using innovative methods of track construction and motive power are being investigated in tandem with proposals for a Light Rail Innovation Centre alongside the route."

It follows a request from Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton councils which are keen to see a rapid transit network linking town centres in a bid to boost employment, education and leisure.

If given the go-ahead, the review is likely to determine which routes and types of vehicle can offer the best options in terms of benefit and value for money. It would take into consideration new developments such as the Black Country Enterprise Zones at i54 and Darlaston, also the need to link to the planned HS2 high speed rail line.

Wolverhampton City Council leader Roger Lawrence, said: "The principle of a high quality rapid transit system for the Black Country remains a priority.

"Such a network would provide the transport infrastructure needed to support ambitions for future economic growth and the creation of much-needed jobs.

"It's been a number of years since this was first looked at. During that time we have seen the emergence of key developments such as HS2, i54 and planned super hospital at Smethwick."

Dancing Grannies team up with Marlene

Comedienne Marlene Watson with the Fizzogs' Dancing Grannies Sue Hawkins, Deb Nicholls and Jacky Fellows

COMEDY sensations The Dancing Grannies are back — this time with a little help from Black Country comedienne Marlene Watson.

The grannies, part of Fizzog Theatre Productions, will be reappearing in their latest comedy tour called Fifty Shades of Fizzogs next month.

This time Deb Nicholls, Sue Hawkins and Jackie Fellows will be joined by Quarry Bank-born Mrs Watson, who herself has become an internet sensation at the age of 68 after posting jokes on her Facebook page A Black Country Wench.

Mrs Watson, of Wall Heath, will be touring with the grannies. She said: "I'm too old to be one of the grannies but I'll help in anyway I can."

Fizzog Deb Nicholls, 42, from Wollaston, said: "Marlene is as mad as a frog, she is just what we're looking for to support our show.

"We've been hoping to work with her for a long time."

Internet

The Dancing Grannies recently found fame when a video of them performing to Flo Rida's 'Low' and Beyonce's 'Single Ladies' at Stourbridge Carnival went viral, viewed more than a million times on the internet. Mrs Watson said: "When the opportunity came, of course I've jumped at it. I think they are great and isn't good to see the popularity they now have after the Youtube coverage."

This year's tour is their sixth and already shows at Quarry Bank and Bridgnorth are sold out.

But tickets are still available for the remaining tour dates at Wednesbury Town Hall on February 20, the Midlands Arts Centre in Edgbaston on February 21, Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on February 27 and Netherton Arts Centre on March 6 and 7.

Family feel cheated by suicide of accused

'WE are now suffering our own life sentence.'

These are the words of the devastated daughter of murdered Halesowen pensioner Cynthia Beamond after the man accused of her killing was found dead in his prison cell.

Beverley Hadley fought back tears as she spoke of her distress at knowing the man accused of her mother's murder will not 'face justice'.

Alleged killer Leo Barnes, aged 33, was on trial for the murders of 80-year-old Mrs Beamond and Philip Silverstone, aged 67.

Trial

He was accused of bludgeoning Mrs Beamond to death with a saucepan at her Juliet Road home on June 27 last year. It was also alleged that he murdered Mr Silverstone with a car jack at his home in Belsize Park, London, the next day.

Police said Barnes, of Runcorn Road, Balsall Heath, was found hanging in his cell at HMP Hewell, Redditch, on Sunday morning.

Mrs Hadley said: "We are devastated as a family that the man we believe is responsible for the brutal murder of my beloved mum is not going to face justice for this horrendous crime."

Ex-champion in the gym

A FORMER world champion boxer is visiting a fitness club on its opening day.

Paul 'Silky' Jones, who won the WBO light middleweight title in 1995, will be at the new Xercise4Less in High Street, Brierley Hill, on tomorrow (Friday). The 48-year-old from Sheffield will be taking part in exercise classes from 9am.

The budget gym operator has created 40 jobs with the new 35,000 sq ft gym, which is its 24th site and will hold more than 400 pieces of equipment.

Experts dig deep into glass heritage

EXPERTS are to put their finds on show after completing their excavation of the grounds of the Ruskin Glass Centre.

Archaeologists began their journey into the past at the start of last year and say what they unearthed has allowed them to develop a timeline of glass making in Stourbridge.

The most exciting discovery was the the remains of a glass cone that once operated at the site in Wollaston Road, similar to Wordsley's famous Red House cone, until it collapsed during the 1700s.

Window glass, bottles, phials, glass lenses and tiles were among other artefacts they came across from the site which was once home to glass greats Webb Corbett and Royal Doulton.

Spectacle

Stourbridge MP Margot James paid a visit to the centre to view the haul and she was amazed by what she saw.

She said: "The archaeological finds from this site will surely be an important spectacle for both local people and glass enthusiasts from the local area."

The findings will feature at an exhibition as part of the International Festival of Glass at the end of May.

Hospital A&E among best

DUDLEY'S Russells Hall Hospital is among the best in England for A&E performance.

Latest NHS figures show the hospital, run by the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, saw almost 100 per cent of its patients within four hours.

Over the week ending January 18, of 1,684 A&E patients at the hospital, 98.5 per cent were seen in time.

The NHS target is 95 per cent but hospitals elsewhere fell woefully short.

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Coroner's concern at failures after op

A CORONER has raised concerns about failings in care by hospital staff which led to a kidney disease patient suffering unnecessary pain and distress before she died.

Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique said staff at Russells Hall Hospital could have done more to ease the suffering of Medina Jones.

Mrs Jones, aged 42, of Brierley Hill, had been diagnosed with the rare condition calciphylaxis, which affects patients with kidney disease and results in non-healing wounds.

An inquest at Smethwick Council House heard concerns raised by Anna Diamond, a lawyer representing Mrs Jones' family, that wounds had not been dressed properly, while a tissue viability nurse had not been involved early enough.

Other issues included that she was moved between wards and there appeared to be a lack of communication between departments.

Mrs Jones was diagnosed with renal impairment in 2006. On December 19, 2012, she was taken to A&E with stomach pains and on December 25 emergency surgery was performed. Wounds failed to heal and she died on April 4.

Julie Paine, head of surgery with Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said improvements to procedure had been introduced since Mrs Jones' death, including wounds being better assessed.

Mr Siddique said: "Failures of wound care and pain management led to the distress for the patient and her family."

There was not enough evidence to support a verdict of neglect.

Fill-in hospital boss is on up to £36k a month

A CASH-STRAPPED hospital trust is paying an interim director up to £36,000 a month – significantly more than its chief executive.

Jon Scott has been working as interim executive director of operations at The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust since last June.

All the money has been paid to Scott Management Solutions, Mr Scott's company based in Chard, Somerset. It comes as the trust is holding talks with staff about cutting 400 jobs over two years to save £14 million.

Published accounts show Mr Scott paid £132,259 since last summer with payments of £34,200 in August, £36,000 in October, £27,859.57 in November and £34,200 in December. There were no payments recorded for July or September.

Chief executive Paula Clark, who earns £180,000 a year, said the trust had been unable to recruit a permanent operations director due to a 'national shortage'.

She hailed Mr Scott's work in having turned around accident and emergency, saying Dudley Group was one of only 11 trusts nationally to have met the four-hour waiting time target over the busy December period. It is now the fourth best performing in the country for waiting times.

She said: "Before Mr Scott joined the trust in June 2014 we were consistently missing the A&E target to see, treat, admit or discharge patients with four hours of arrival. Jon Scott was recommended by Monitor (the NHS watchdog) as someone who had a track record of operational turnround in the NHS. Since he has joined the trust we have seen a transformation in the emergency care pathway.

"The NHS is currently facing a national shortage of operations directors with many posts vacant and filled with interim directors."

More in work as jobless figures fall

THERE are 80 fewer Jobseeker's Allowance claimants in Dudley as West Midlands unemployment fell by 34,000 to 173,000, the biggest drop of any region in the country.

The latest jobless total from the Office for National Statistics shows a fall of 58,000 to 1.91 million, the lowest since autumn 2008.

A record 30 million people are in work.

The number of claimants in Dudley is 5,800. The total Black Country claimant count was down 1,386, to 24,998 in December.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Pete Lowe, said: "What we are striving to do at the council is take a significant regeneration emphasis and look at all avenues of reducing unemployment.

"We have recently seen the new Premier Inn open in Stourbridge bringing a significant number of jobs.

"What we are trying to do in Dudley is work with companies to ensure they are real jobs, not just casual work to get people off unemployment figures.

"It's about getting real jobs, real prospects and real futures for people," he said.

£9m centre open for business

Director of Dudley Advance Neil Thomas outside the centre which will boost engineering skills

DUDLEY College's new £9 million manufacturing and engineering centre is open for business. The campus, called Dudley Advance, is home to more than 500 students as they learn about the engineering technology industry to help bridge the skills shortage.

The specialist centre off Priory Road, in Dudley's new £30 million Learning Quarter, has teaching space spread over four floors. There are facilities for the study of engineering and advanced manufacturing including mechatronics, electrical engineering and engineering science, as well as traditional machine tool engineering.

Dudley Advance is launching its services for businesses at an employer breakfast today (Friday). This will give employers the opportunity to tour the building and view the £1m investment in equipment and machinery the college has made. The event is free and employers can drop in any time between 8am and 10am. Call (01384) 363 860 or email helen.boden@dudleycol.ac.uk

Barking dogs help to catch burglar

A PROLIFIC burglar has been locked up after two dogs helped put an end to his thieving spree.

Jonathan Cartwright did not count on the dogs which blocked his path at a house in Seymour Road, Lye.

Their barks alerted the homeowner who had been watching TV in the front room. The 45-year-old found Cartwright in his kitchen and gave chase but the burglar got away, scrambling over a garden fence.

However, the resident gave detectives an accurate description of the crook to point local officers towards Cartwright, of Thorns Road, Quarry Bank.

The 32-year-old was known to police and had also been arrested in July in connection with a break-in at Netherton Park Family Centre in which thieves targeted a shed.

Cartwright was picked out by the homeowner in an identity parade over the burglary in April.

He was jailed for three years at Wolverhampton Crown Court after being found guilty of burglary.

Detective Constable Sean Lowe, said: "Cartwright is a prolific burglar and people across Dudley are safer with him behind bars."

Youngsters in harmony

YOUNG people's choir Pure Harmony is now accepting new members to help them continue to hit the high notes.

The choir, based in Cradley Heath, sing at concerts throughout the year and raise money for charities with a repertoire including pop and show tunes.

Leaders Eleanor Rushbury and Lis Round are both school teachers. Pure Harmony meet Mondays during term time at Lawrence Lane Methodist Church from 6pm to 7pm and attendance is free. New members should just turn up.

EofE rock back

DUDLEY rock group EofE, who last year supported McBusted, will release new single Stars In Hollywood in March. The five-piece are back on tour this spring as support for Glamour of the Kill. This will include a gig at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on March 3.

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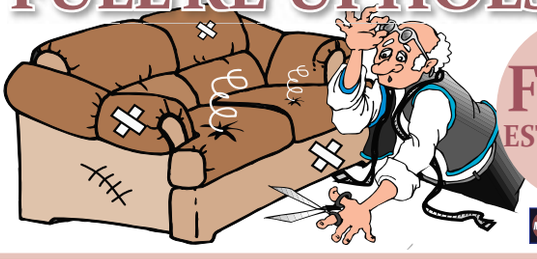
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Punching driver led to arrest at airport

PUNCHING a work colleague at a taxi company finally caught up with Omar Shahed as he prepared to board a plane almost two and a half years later, a judge heard.

The 33-year-old was involved in a bust up at Fast Line Taxis, Kingswinford, where he was working as a controller on June 7, 2012.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Shahed punched a driver in the face who had accused him of giving jobs to his friends.

Shahed was at Manchester Airport on September 19 and about to board a plane to Lahore when he was detained. There was no suggestion that he was trying to abscond, said Mr Malcolm Fowler, defending.

The defendant from North Street, Kates Hill, pleaded guilty to assault and was given a 26-week jail sentence suspended for 18 months with £800 costs and compensation.

Judge Robin Onions told him: "It was an unpleasant assault but a humiliating experience for you to be arrested at an airport. No explanation has been offered and it escapes me why you were not traced until you were boarding a plane on family matters."

Celebration of diversity

AN EVENT will be held to celebrate multicultural life in Dudley a week before the English Defence League's planned march in the town.

St Thomas's Community Network, Dudley Borough Inter Faith Network and Hope Not Hate have teamed up for the event on Saturday, from 11am to 2pm at St John's Parish Hall in St John's Road, Kates Hill.

It will feature free food, live music and family entertainment and will culminate in a balloon release at 1.30pm.

The EDL protest against a new mosque is due to take place on February 7.

Microchip pets

AN ACTION day is being held for people to get their pets microchipped. The event is being organised by the RSPCA and Dudley Council at Netherton Park activity centre, in Chester Avenue, on February 4, from 10am and 4pm. A donation will be requested.

Cleared officer may face disciplinary hearing

Died — Zhang Xuan Wei, 24

A POLICE officer, who was cleared of causing the death by careless driving of a university student, could still face a police disciplinary hearing.

Pc Vaughan Lowe, a West Midlands Police traffic officer from Stourbridge, was found not guilty after a trial at Warwick Crown Court. The 43-year-old's unmarked police BMW, which had its blue lights and siren on, struck Chinese student Zhang Xuan Wei at a crossing on the A34 New Town Row in Birmingham in April 2012.

The 24-year-old Birmingham City University student, was thrown into the air by the impact and died in hospital the next day.

Lowe, who had been responding to reports of a stolen vehicle, denied causing Wei's death by careless driving.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) said that Mr Lowe could still be disciplined over accusations of gross misconduct.

IPCC deputy chairman Rachel Cerfontyne said its report has been passed on to Mr Zhang's family and West Midlands Police. She said: "It found that Pc Lowe had a case to answer for gross misconduct as his driving fell below the required standard and failed to comply with a number of national and force-wide policies, as well as the Highway Code. West Midlands Police will now finalise internal disciplinary hearings."

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Cann said: "I once again extend our heartfelt condolences to Zhang Xuan Wei's family and friends. No parent should have to lose a child in such tragic circumstances and I am very sorry for their loss. There are no winners as a result of this verdict. A family remain grieving for a loved one and a highly skilled police officer, who has dedicated his life to public service – and who had an otherwise unblemished driving history – will forever be haunted by the events of that night."

After the verdict, Judge Andrew Lockhart QC said: "This has been, for all concerned, a case that has been difficult and involved."

New hope for Hippodrome as group given extra time

DUDLEY Hippodrome has taken one step closer to reopening as an entertainment venue after council leaders agreed there was 'potential for a major and very exciting' scheme to bring the site back into use.

Entertainment company The ROK Group has been given a further two months to work on its business plan.

It proves a major milestone in the campaign to save the theatre, which just two years ago was on the brink of demolition under council plans.

Wolverhampton-based businessman Jonathan Kendrick, co-founder of The ROK Group, is behind the £8 million transformation plans for the Hippodrome.

Mr Kendrick, whose father Vic owned the building in the 1960s, said his company have now submitted three versions of the business plan to run the venue. He said the deal needs to be resolved as soon as possible.

Investment

"I'm pleased that we have got to this stage but it has taken a long time to get here," he said. "We have got to make a decision on this soon otherwise we will take our investment elsewhere.

"It is especially emotional for me, with my attachment to the Hippodrome. We think it is the perfect setting.

"Where else would you have unique attractions like the zoo and museum — that's what Dudley can offer."

Castle Hill is being transformed under a £10 million scheme by Dudley Council to boost attractions Dudley Zoo, the Black Country Living Museum, and Dudley Canal Tunnels.

Demand is soaring for food bank

DUDLEY Council is to pump £25,000 into the Black Country Food Bank to help the service cope with soaring demand.

The number of people using the food bank, based in Brierley Hill, rose by more than 1,000 last year.

As desperate families turn to the service at an increasing rate, the council said the funding would be used to help those most in need.

The cash will come from the council's Welfare Assistance Fund, which is set aside to aid crisis-hit families.

The council's deputy leader Stuart Turner said: "By providing funding to the Black Country Food Bank we are able to reach people most in need.

"It provides a real lifeline for some people and with our help I am sure we can reach more people who need a little helping hand in these tough times."

Emma Crook, from the Black Country Food Bank, said: "It's frightening to think of how necessary the provision of emergency food has become."

Players cue up to take on a legend

Pot that — six-time world snooker champion Steve Davis at Stourbridge Institute with Richard Rudge, left, and Ron Peplow

SNOOKER legend Steve Davis wowed fans during an exhibition in Stourbridge. The six-time world champion was at the packed-out Stourbridge Institute to officially reopen its snooker room after a refurbishment.

Davis, whose 1985 'black ball' final against Dennis Taylor memorably had 18 million people glued to their screens, kept the crowd of 140 entertained with trick shots.

New top quality tables have been installed in the room, which has been named in honour of Stourbridge's former West Midlands amateur champion Charlie Randle. Mr Randle was a club member for more than 40 years, until his death in 2006.

Davis, 57, said: "I really enjoy these exhibition evenings and coming into the community. It's great to come to an area like this which has always been strong in the league form of the game. It is an area that appreciates snooker. The social clubs have astonishing facilities that you don't see anywhere else in the country.

"While the number of people playing snooker in the UK is not as high as it used to be, there are some clubs that are improving and helping to keep the game going."

Davis has seen off some fearsome challengers over the years, but one man he faced in Stourbridge has an impressive background himself. At the age of 91, Wally Alchurch was taking on his fourth world champion. As captain of Stoubridge's former Conservative Club team, he faced Fred Davis in 1948, then John Pulman and Alex Higgins when they visited the town.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Axed bus route is partly restored

NEW bus routes have launched for passengers in Old Hill and Cradley, including one restoring part of a service controversially axed by transport bosses.

They will take passengers to Merry Hill shopping centre, Halesowen town centre and Blackheath.

One of the four new routes replaces part of the old 297 service, travelling through Station Road and Barrs Road.

The 297, which ran via Quarry Bank to Russells Hall Hospital, was stopped by National Express West Midlands in the summer.

Splash down to learn a vital skill

A COURSE to help youngsters develop swimming skills will be launched next month.

The course includes five half-an-hour lessons and will be held at Dudley Leisure Centre from February 16 to 20. It is suitable for children aged five and over.

Sessions will run from 9am, 9.30am, 10am and 10.30am each day. The course costs £23.50 per child. Pre-booking is essential. For more information visit the leisure centre, in Wellington Road.

Gornal's flag to fly this weekend

AN official flag for a Black Country village will be unveiled this month.

The Gornal flag has been chosen following a competition for schoolchildren.

The flag will be unfurled outside the village's library, in Abbey Road, on Saturday at 10.50am, during a ceremony when Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston will present certificates to the winner and runners-up.

Cannabis factory is found at house

A CANNABIS factory was discovered in a raid on a house in Tipton at the weekend.

Plants with a street value of £4,000 were found by police at the property in Oakley Avenue.

The drugs haul was seized by officers in the raid on Sunday afternoon.

A 42-year-old man was questioned by police.

Cycle shelter plan

A CYCLE shelter could be built at Halesowen Leisure Centre under new plans.

The covered shelter would be installed by the front entrance. Proposals have been lodged with Dudley Council.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

"HE has a place in the nation's heart precisely because he was not perfect." Winston Churchill who died 50 years ago, as described this week by his great-grandson, Randolph Churchill.

A READER writes: "I am very cross that my young daughter just brought home a sofa and two chairs that someone gave her. I've told her not to accept suites from strangers."

IT'S a high-risk policy for the Mayor of Paris to threaten libel action against Fox News for suggesting there are no-go areas in Paris. "When we're insulted, and when we've had an image, then I think we'll have to sue," declares Mayor Anne Hidalgo. "The honour of Paris has been prejudiced." Well, maybe it has. But so was Birmingham's a few days ago when Fox made similar no-go claims. The difference is that Brum responded with a torrent of humour, burying Fox under a pile of jokes (loved the one about Brummie kids being forced to read the Kerrang!) and extracted a cringing apology. If Paris decides to stand on its honour and sue, what if Fox decides to fight? Any city in the world could produce dozens, or even hundreds, of locals prepared to swear under oath that there are neighbourhoods they avoid. Paris could end up with oeuf all over its visage. Pride goeth before a fall, as the Bible doesn't quite say.

OH, the confusion. After a couple of breast-free days, the Sun reverted to form.. My hunch is that Page 3 is on the way out, not because it is obscene, offensive or exploitative but because it has committed the sin that no-one dares forgive. It is, as Rupert Murdoch put it, old-fashioned. Not that Sun boobs will vanish entirely. Ask Google how many items it has under "Page 3" and the response is a depressingly vague "About 300,000,000"

ANOTHER class-based cock-up, this time from Labour's Chuka Umunna, shadow business secretary and MP for Streatham. Faced with an unexpected question, he flounced out of a Sky News interview declaring: "I'm not just going to speak off-piste." As they say in Streatham.

THE Church of England has announced that, for the next 10 years, all bishops' seats in the House of Lords will be reserved for newly-appointed women bishops. So a privilege which is already restricted to one denomination of one single faith will now be restricted even further by a gender bar. The only cause for joy is that it is all done by amending the Bishopric Act, which raises a smile. But if a second chamber at Westminster is necessary or desirable, isn't it high time we got a grip on the grossly over-swollen House of Lords, slashed its numbers from 800 to perhaps 200 and appointed Lords on merit, not because they are party donors, celebrities, unemployable ex-MPs or God-botherers?

FIRST World problems are those little trials which exist only in affluent societies. Take the little furore spotted a few days ago by a reader in a restaurant which advertised free wi-fi. Spotting this advert, one young diner abandoned his meal to log on. Finding the signal was too weak, he complained that this not only infringed his human rights but was against the law. Perfect.

I RECENTLY questioned the shape of Beth's pregnancy bump in Broadchurch (ITV). A reader explains: "I have connections with Dorset and medicine-ball smuggling was a family tradition." A more intriguing question is why the first series of Broadchurch was so good and this second series is poor. I suspect the answer is that the TV company was taken unawares by the success of the first series and rushed the next episodes into production. Film in haste, repent at leisure.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Getaway driver used his father's car

THE getaway driver for bungled bids to steal cigarettes from Black Country shops has been spared jail.

Ashley Riley, of Clarence Road, Bilston, used his father's car after being recruited for the raids, a judge was told. The gang struck first at A&B News in Poole Crescent, Coseley, at 12.10am on October 17, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The owner of the business and his family were in their flat above the shop and saw three men forcing the shutters with crowbars in a failed attempt to break in, said Howard Searle, prosecuting. The raiders fled to a waiting car and drove off after realising they had been spotted.

An hour later, they tried to smash into Bridgefield Stores in Constantine Way, Bilston, causing an estimated £3,500 damage. A witness noted the car's registration number, traced to the father of 26-year-old Riley. Jon Roe, defending, said: "He (Riley) was recruited by others who are older and more experienced and had leverage over him."

Father-of-one Riley, who had no previous convictions, pleaded guilty to the two attempted robberies and was given a 16-month jail sentence suspended under supervision for two years, 200 hours unpaid work, three-month curfew, and told to pay £450. Judge Robin Onions said: "These were ham-fisted attempts to force a way into premises late at night that caused considerable upset. You were recruited foryour father's car, and should have had nothing to do with it."

Two other men have been charged.

Bid to restore glass tribute to Sir Winston

A £100,000 funding bid to restore an iconic Dudley memorial to war-time leader Winston Churchill is to be drawn up.

The campaign to bring back the colourful stained-glass tribute, which formed the centrepiece of Dudley's original Churchill Precinct for more than 20 years, was launched in 2013.

As the nation marks the 50th anniversary of Sir Winston's death, it has now been announced the vital funding bid for the memorial will now be drawn up.

By Lee Watton

The original memorial consisted of 17 panels which stretched across a section of the Churchill Precinct. It was designed by world-renowned artist Edward Bainbridge Copnall and was unveiled in 1969.

The memorial was taken down in 1991 after vandal attacks and weather damage took their toll.

Remaining panels were placed in storage after their removal.

At the time if its creation, the adhesive used to hold the panels together was not compatible with the materials used.

Team

Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who started the campaign, has brought together a team which has met with Heritage Lottery Fund bosses to discuss the project.

Members have now won Dudley Council backing to put together the £100,000 bid to fund the restoration project.

Mr Austin said the team included representatives from community arts project Artspace, which is based in the Churchill Shopping Centre, along with Dudley Council environment boss Hilary Bills, council officers and the borough artist Steve Field. They will now draw up the bid which will be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Mr Austin said it had not yet been decided how much of the memorial would be restored and what would be recreated. But he hoped all of the original pieces of the tribute that are in good enough condition would be used in the restoration.

He said: "I'm really pleased we're able to make this announcement to coincide with the anniversary of Winston Churchill's death 50 years ago. Everyone who grew up in Dudley will remember the magnificent memorial."

Pub plans to be discussed

CAMPAIGNERS who won a bid to stop plans for a convenience store to be built on a Black Country pub car park are holding a public meeting to decide what to do next.

New River Retail's £1 million plan for a Co-Operative store next to the Haden Cross Inn in Cradley Heath, was rejected by Sandwell Council, after a campaign by pub customers.

The Friends of Haden Cross Inn have vowed to continue to protect the pub and safeguard its future. They will discuss plans at the pub in Halesowen Road on Tuesday, February 10, 7.30pm.

The beards have got to go

Half way there —Adrian Carrier, left, and Graham Haugh lose their whiskers for charity

TWO friends from Kingswinford have lost their impressive beards for a good cause.

It took 14 months for friends and colleagues Graham Haugh, aged 30, and Adrian Carrier, 29, to grow their whiskers but they were shaved off when the tradesmen decided to re-style their appearance to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK. So far they have collected more than £500.

Graham, a plumber, said: "I had been doing 'Movember' for the past few years and then Adrian decided to go one step further and to start growing a beard. I ended up joining in. Before we knew it it had turned into a bit of a 'beard-off'. A year later and we were left with pretty substantial beards."

The friends decided to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK after Graham's father-in-law, Michael Silk, died from the disease in September 2013.

Graham admitted the shave at Chapter One Barbers in Pedmore had gone down well with his wife, Meriam.

Activities galore for half-term at centre

DANCING, crafts, swimming and football are among the activities being staged at a leisure centre to keep youngsters entertained over the half-term holiday.

An aqua run and junior active zone will be staged at Dudley Leisure Centre, in Wellington Road, on February 17 and 19. The aqua run will include obstacles and a challenge section with slide. Sessions on both days will run from 1.45pm to 2.45pm.

It is suitable for eight to 15s who can swim 25 metres or more and costs £2.80 per child. Juniors can then stay in the pool for a swim for an extra £1 afterwards.

Active zone offers a day of fun including dance mats, multi skill activities, craft sessions, swimming and team games including football, rounders, basketball and badminton for £20 per day.

Active zone will run on both days 9am to 4pm and is suitable for children aged eight to 14. Pre-booking at reception is recommended for most of the activities. Under 16s can get a 50 per cent discount for courts for badminton, squash, five-a-side football, netball and basketball.

Visit Dudley Leisure Centre or go online to www.dudley.gov.uk/sport

Landmark to be two homes

A £192,000 scheme to refurbish a landmark Dudley building has been approved.

Listed Holloway Hall Chambers will be converted into two town houses by Dudley Council.

The building is near the Holloway Chambers and Elizabeth House buildings in Priory Street, which were converted into offices by the council. The council is working to increase the number of homes in the town centre and Holloway Hall has been chosen as the next stage.

Councillor Rachel Harris said it would create two one-bed houses for rent.

Psychic on stage

TELEVISION psychic Sally Morgan will take her show to Dudley on her latest tour.

She takes to the stage at Dudley Town Hall on April 27. Morgan has built up a following through her appearances on Sky Living.

For tickets visit www.dudley.gov.uk

Birthday cash hope sparked robbery

A WOMAN robbed a shop in a bid to get money for her daughter's birthday, a judge heard. Marcia Anderson, of Rowley Regis, walked behind the counter of Samra Stores in Victoria Park Road, Smethwick and demanded cash from the till.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that when the manager refused the 42-year-old from Greenwood Avenue pulled something from her sleeve.

Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting, said: "The woman shop manager thought she was going to be shot. The defendant took some loose change from a drawer and left but during the incident the manager had removed clothing that was covering her face and recognised her."

Police found Anderson with £5 that had been taken from the shop. She pleaded guilty the robbery on July 7 on the basis that she did not threaten to kill anybody and was not armed with a gun.

Mr Jones concluded: "She told officers after her arrest that she was frantic to get some money because it was her daughter's birthday."

Judge Martin Walsh adjourned the matter to a date to be set and remanded Anderson in custody.

Helpline for new mothers

A HELPLINE is being launched by Dudley Council to support breastfeeding mums.

The Buddy Service Helpline is an extension to the existing breastfeeding buddy scheme. New mothers can access support from a trained volunteer who can provide information on support groups.

Volunteers are unable to make home visits but can arrange for mother and baby to be met by a buddy at a children's centre. The helpline is on (01384) 814545. It is open from 9.45am to 12.15pm, Monday-Friday, or leave a message.

Rail topic at talk

BLACK Country historian Ned Williams will be giving a talk on February 19 at Stourbridge Town Hall about The Earl of Dudley's Railway.

Mr Williams will be talking at 7.30pm to the meeting of Stourbridge Historical Society.

Cancer charity fraudster is put behind bars

Charity cheat David Armson

A CROOK who convinced more than 100 people to give him cancer charity donations and spent the money on drugs has been locked up.

Fraudster David Armson, aged 25, who has nine previous convictions for similar crimes, went door to door saying he was collecting sponsorship for Cancer Research's Great Christmas Pudding Race. Families donated up to £8 each. The addict spent all the cash on drugs.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that the father-of-one knocked on doors in Gough Road, Coseley, on September 14. At one house he thought was empty, he smashed a pane of glass and tried to break in.

Mr Nick Wadsworth, prosecuting, said one resident caught Armson spying through the letter box to check if a house was empty.

When he did not get an response at another property, he smashed a pane of glass in the front door and had his arm through the hole when the occupant appeared in the hall to answer the bell. Armson was chased by the resident, who took a picture of the fleeing burglar on their phone.

Police called to the scene recognised Armson in the photograph and arrested him on October 7. When they went to arrest him, officers smelt burning from inside his flat and discovered the remains of a charity sponsorship form in a bin. More forms filled with details of more than 100 sponsors were found.

Mr David Wallace, defending, said: "The most anybody paid was £8 and the average was about £4, meaning the total sum involved in this fraud was around £400. It was small and pathetic and not a high level means of maintaining the drug habit it was meant to feed."

Armson, of Dimmocks Avenue, Coseley, who had 24 previous convictions involving 128 offences, pleaded guilty to burglary, fraud and going equipped for fraud and was jailed for a total of 24 months.

Judge Robin Onions said: "This trades on the goodwill of people prepared to give money for a worthwhile cause since many have been touched by the scourge of cancer."

Protesters at meeting on child transport cuts

PROTESTORS gathered outside a Dudley council office to show their anger at proposals to make cuts to free transport for children with special needs.

Up to 20 demonstrators from Dudley Coalition Against the Cuts gathered outside the office of Dudley Council's children's services last week while the council's children's services scrutiny committee was meeting to discuss the changes.

The move comes as the council seeks to save more than £200,000 a year.

The authority said it is not legally required to provide the service and launched a consultation over bringing in charges.

The council currently pays for 49 children with additional needs to travel to specialist nurseries in the borough.

Demand

But leaders claim they have been forced to consider axing the service after cutbacks by Government.

They also said that demand for the service will decrease and that by September, when the proposed charges could be introduced, only 11 children would be affected.

Marc Carter, of Brierley Hill, was among the demonstrators. He said the transport needed to be tailored to the children's needs, especially if they had mobility problems or medical equipment such as oxygen tanks.

Committee chairman Councillor Melvyn Mottram said the council would look at alternative ways of enabling the children to get to nursery, including providing a personal budget to pay for their own transport in exceptional circumstances.

Meeting on Twitter and Facebook

ALMOST 1,000 residents took to social network sites to join a public meeting with the leader of Dudley Council online.

People watched or joined the debate on Twitter and Facebook during the online community forum with council leader Councillor Pete Lowe.

Dudley is believed to be the first local authority in the country to hold a public meeting on both major social media sites at the same time.

Among questions asked during the online forum were if council tax would be frozen, which is planned, and about road gritting during the worst of the winter weather.

Councillor Lowe said: "I am delighted to see so many people coming forward to discuss ideas and issues with us through the online community forums.

"We are national leaders when it comes to engaging with people in this way."

Residents can also attend local neighbourhood forums held around the borough.

Young talent readyf or panto laughs

Panto time in Netherton for Adrian Raybould as Ali Baba, right, with fellow cast members Ricky Stevens and Laura Homer

BUDDING performers are treading the boards in their version of the pantomime Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves.

The Young Ones and Their Guests, made up of 40 actors aged from seven to 18, with some roles played by older guests, are be taking to the stage at Netherton Arts Centre this week.

The group, which has been running for more than 40 years, gives aspiring young entertainers the chance to perform alongside veteran amateur actors from across the borough.

Seasoned panto dame Mike Bradley will be taking to the stage alongside Adrian Raybould as Ali Baba, Ricky Stevens who plays Ahmed Baba and Laura Homer who plays a spirit dancer.

The story is based on the story from the One Thousand And One Nights, which tells the tale of a brave and beautiful slave girl who saves Ali Baba and his family.

Members of The Young Ones are putting their own twist on the story. Director and choreographer Audrey Henwood said: "Rehearsals began in September. It's a very colourful and lively pantomime which will be very enjoyable to watch."

The group, which was founded in 1973, performs a pantomime every year and aims to give youngsters interested in acting, singing and dancing the chance to take to the stage with help from more experienced amateur performers.

The production runs until January 31 at the venue in Northfield Road,. Tickets cost £8.50 and £10 from Chris Sykes on (01384) 895266.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New cemetery to open next month

A NEW £200,000 cemetery in Dudley to solve the shortage of burial space problem in the borough will open for funerals next month.

More than 1,000 extra plots are being created on the site off Clee Road, opposite the existing Dudley Cemetery.

The space includes 1,000 adult plots, 140 smaller plots, space for 150 cremations, and will be able to cater for all religions.

The site, to open at the end of February, will have enough burial space to last in the region of 20 years.

From pub to pizza at Struggling Man

A PUB in Dudley will be transformed into a takeaway pizza outlet, under new proposals.

The Struggling Man, at the junction of Dibdale Road and Salop Street, would be transformed in the scheme. Papa Jones has submitted a change of use application.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said he was surprised as a similar business shut down and was converted into a funeral directors nearby.

A decision is pending.

Morphine stolen in warehouse raid

THIEVES have made off with prescription drugs, including morphine capsules, during a raid on a warehouse at an industrial estate in Brierley Hill.

Police have urged anyone offered diamorphine, fentanyl, morphine capsules, oxycodin, dextomoramide, dipipanone or tamazipan on the streets to contact them immediately.

Call Dudley Police on 101.

Magic matinee at town centre venue

MAGIC is in the air for half-term with a performance by magician Michael Jordan in the High Jinx Magic and Illusion show at Stourbridge Town Hall. The magician will be joined by the High Jinx Dancers. Tickets cost £10 adults, £8 children and £32 for a family of four at the 2.30 show on February 18. Call 0870 3207000.

Mystery drama

DUDLEY Little Theatre will be performing Daphne Du Maurier's mystery My Cousin Rachel at Netherton Arts Centre, Northfield Road, March 11 to 14. See www.dudleylittletheatre.org or call (01384) 872583.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

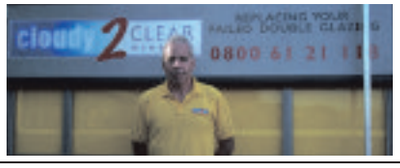
It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

IT'S confession time. I've changed, I've done a U-turn, turned my back on my principles.

Last year I wrote about my steadfast resistance to the smartphone revolution, and clinging to my battered old pay-as-you-go Nokia. People laughed at it but it made calls and sent text messages, which is essentially what a phone is for.

But just over a month ago I succumbed, and got my first smartphone. Not that I paid for it, you understand. And I certainly haven't tied myself down to one of those contracts which seem a bit too much like buying your telly on the never-never.

But if you manage to amass 10,000 'Freebie Rewardz' points, you get one free, a Nokia Lumia something or other. And since the old one was clearly on the way out, it seemed rude not to.

There are a lot of things I don't like about Freebie Rewardz, not least the 'z'. Spelling things wrongly doesn't make you funky or modern, just stupid. And given that to qualify for 10,000 Rewardz points you have to spend a grand on calling credit, calling them 'freebie' is a bit of a stretch.

That said, the phone is very shiny. And it makes a groovy clicking noise when you turn it on and off. Just one problem. Where are the instructions?

My old phone, which was pretty basic, came with 98-pages of instructions. One or two I could have done without. Like the two pages entitled: "Turning your phone on and off." Or the section "Making and receiving calls", which featured such nuggets as "(1) Enter the area code and phone number" and "(2) press 'yes'."

But the instructions for this one run to just two pages. And I've no idea how to use it.

"You look on the internet for instructions these days," explained a young person in the office. Fair enough. Unless, of course, you need the phone to access the internet.

Anyway, it all got sorted and, for a few days, I must admit I thought it was all pretty cool, being able to surf the information superhighway and check my emails at any time.

Then I started being woken by text messages in the night.

"We notice you have started using data. You will be charged £2." Whaaat? So some bozo on the other side of the world sends you an an email trying to flog you counterfeit Viagra, and you're expected to pay £2 for the privilege. That's £14 a week. Or £728 a year. Think of how many bags of pork scratchings you could get for that.

After consulting again with the said young person, I have now managed to turn the internet off. So one month after becoming part of the smartphone generation, I now have a phone which does the same thing as my old one but takes up twice as much space in my pocket. That's progress for you!

Painting of the Red House Glass Cone at Wordsley

Dudley Castle provides the backdrop for these anglers

Clent Hills by David Williams is on display

Familiar scenes put in the frame

A group's artwork depicting many regional landmarks has now gone on display. **LEE WATTON** reports

HISTORIC buildings, canalside scenes and familiar landmarks are featured in a new exhibition staged by a group of Black Country artists.

The Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley and the Clent Hills are among the places depicted in watercolours, oils, pastels and acrylics.

Art lovers can see the works, created by the Brierley Hill Society of Artists, on display at the Red House Glass Cone until March 22.

Many of the images depict familiar scenes from across the region with paintings of the Prestwood Canal at Stourton near Stourbridge, Kingswinford's Broadfield House Glass Museum and Bunkers Hill Wood, in Netherton, also featured.

Members have also taken their inspiration from further afield with comedic paintings of an African safari alongside paintings of Venice and Falaise in France.

Exciting

Among those exhibiting paintings in the exhibition are group members David and Dorothy Williams, of Westwood Avenue, Norton, Stourbridge.

The couple have been members of the society for five years and said the exhibition was an 'exciting' way for the group to show its work.

Mr Williams, aged 59, has five pieces in the display including a scene from Bunkers Hill Wood, in Netherton, a snowdrop walk in Chance Wood, near Kinver and a scene of Clent Hills.

"It takes around 15 hours to create a work," he said. "I go to the location to take photographs to work from. I can then make changes so the scene is more my own.

"A lot of the group enjoy creating works depicting scenes from the region. Because the exhibition is being held at the Red House Glass Cone a lot of people from this area will actually see the works."

Mr Williams added: "The aim of the exhibition is to have a wide variety of different images and styles. It is a great event and we all look forward to showing our work."

At the launch of the exhibition artist J Maule-Ffinch was presented with the Freda Griffiths Trophy for the painting Oxfordshire Street.

Freda Griffiths was one of the founding members of the group and the award was set up in her honour.

Like last year, the group, which has 45 members, is also running a small children's exhibition at the same time.

And, as part of the display, members will be providing simple children's art activities during February half-term.

Cabinet member for environment and culture on Dudley Council, Councillor Hilary Bills said: "The annual exhibition by the Brierley Hill Society of Artists at the Red House Glass Cone is always of a very high standard.

"It is always lovely to see familiar scenes from the region featuring in the show.

"The children's activities were very popular last year and I hope that youngsters drop by the exhibition and try their hand at a small piece of artwork."

The Red House Glass Cone can be visited from Monday to Sunday between 10am and 4pm. Admission is free.

Brierly Hill Society of Artists members David, aged 59, and Dorothy, 67, Williams, from Norton, Stourbridge

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

MORE proof, if it were needed, that the West Midlands is essential to the General Election: Ed Miliband was due to visit, to Cannock to be precise.

We've had two helpings of Ed Balls in four months, with a side of George Osborne in Hatherton, just over the border in South Staffordshire.

It's no surprise, of course. Cannock Chase was the scene of the biggest swing from Labour to the Tories in 2010. It could be something of a bellwether in the early hours of May 8 as to who is on course to win.

The Labour leader was heading there to hold a question and answer with what politicians like to term 'real people'. Hopefully, as it was open to anyone who registered, it was a chance for people to share their concerns and quiz the man who might well be our next Prime Minister. Unfortunately, it was advertised on the Labour party website and not that many would have found it, unless they were one of the lucky few sent a letter.

This is a problem Labour has to address if it is to have a hope of turfing David Cameron out of Number 10.

Deserted

You see, there's a type of person that decides to sign up to attend Labour party events after finding them on Labour party websites or hears about them through other Labour party members. They tend to be people who either support or are interested in the Labour party.

Getting out and meeting people is the only way to win over sceptics. Preaching to the converted is not enough. Any party leader surrounding himself with people already either like-minded or at least very open to what he has to say isn't going to get the desired effect. The people in Cannock who deserted Labour in 2010 aren't just going to turn up and tell Labour they have come back to the fold.

Culture minister Ed Vaizey visited Wolverhampton community radio station WCR FM before heading off to Dudley Zoo. While at the radio station he discussed the fight to bring back the £4 million Barbara Hepworth sculpture Rock Form, removed from the Mander Centre.

MPs Pat McFadden (Labour) and Paul Uppal (Conservative) have both campaigned on it. Mr Vaizey was pleased to hear his fellow Tory Mr Uppal had been so involved.

The Tories have now picked a candidate to hold on to Aldridge-Brownhills for them when Sir Richard Shepherd stands down at the election. The choice of Wendy Morton meant local councillor Marco Longhi missed out. Sir Richard's enviable majority makes it a much better prospect as Mrs Morton makes her third bid for Westminster. Aldridge-Brownhills might be where we find out if there is any such thing as a safe seat.

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Appeal exceeded all expectations

THE branch committee of Lower Gornal Royal British Legion would like to extend a grateful thanks to all contributors to our annual poppy appeal. Despite the sudden sad demise of our chief organiser, known to many of you, we did exceed all expectations with a magnificent sum of £8,300, an increase over the past few years.

A special thanks to the local business, shops, libraries, schools and churches who contributed in such a magnificent manner, not forgetting the contribution of the local residents, who as always were magnanimous. Our remembrance parade was again a success with a large attendance and we thank all the youth organisations and schools which attended, a special thank you to the police officers who attended from a night shift to ensure our safety.

Although the past year was the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War we must not forget that it was four more years before the fighting ended, the effect on a small village as Lower Gornal must not be forgotten.

STAN HOUGH
Treasurer Lower Gornal RBL

Eyes closed to potholes

WHENEVER I have notified any local council of potholes these 'obstructions' have soon been rectified. But looking at the ever increasing number of them now makes me wonder.

Do employees of the councils travel around with their eyes closed? Do none of them ever have the shock of their cars being almost wrecked after hitting a hole in the road?

P COLE
Kingswinford

Fox hunting is barbaric

THERE is no place in a civilised society for the barbaric sport of fox hunting, or the hunting of deer for that matter.

How can anyone get pleasure from chasing a small terrified animal to exhaustion with a pack of hounds then watching it ripped to pieces is beyond me.

What happens to the poor hounds that get old or of no further use too?

E BARROWS
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Sit and wait at GP's to solve A&E problem

I HAVE seen many letters blaming not being able to get a doctor's appointment for two weeks for the influx of patients at A&E departments in hospitals. But if your condition is serious you can be seen as an emergency patient at your GP surgery anyway and he/she will decide if you need hospital treatment.

If you can wait two weeks for an appointment then you are not ill enough to go to A&E. I wonder how many people have grumbled about the wait only to find that they got better anyway and had to cancel the appointment, or worse still just did not attend.

I have many times attended my appointment to find not a single soul in the huge waiting room, been called straight in and taken a few minutes with the doctor. When I've come out still an empty waiting room. So the doctor then waits for his next patient to arrive, precious minutes that could have been spent dealing with someone under the old system of sit and wait.

I think the two systems could be run side by side in all surgeries with a doctor on duty each day for patients prepared to sit and wait. I know this does happen in walk in centres but there are not enough of them so people are using A&E as walk in centres instead. I also think surgeries should be open at weekends, people are not ill just on weekday.

J JAMES
Wordsley

Lost hours in surgery

I HAVE worked in general practice since 1989, so I feel able to comment in defence of this service.

There is a lot of negative press about how poorly A&E is performing and one of the reasons for increased demand has been blamed on patients not being able to access their GP for an appointment.

At the surgery where I work during December, 40 patients failed to attend for their appointment. This is the equivalent to a GP sitting waiting for seven hours for patients to arrive. What a waste of resources!

We are just one surgery. If you looked nationally imagine what the numbers would add up to!

Patients have to take responsibility too. It is a partnership between the NHS and patients, we both need to play our part.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

March OK, parade not?

WOMBOURNE with the backing of the local community are going to re-instate their carnival but because of insurance they will not be able to have their parade around the village. Apart from the pot holes, I would have thought they could manage to navigate around the village without creating too much of a risk. Perhaps they should have their parade on behalf of the English Defence League or the Unite Against Fascists as there doesn't appear to be problems regarding insurance with their marches!

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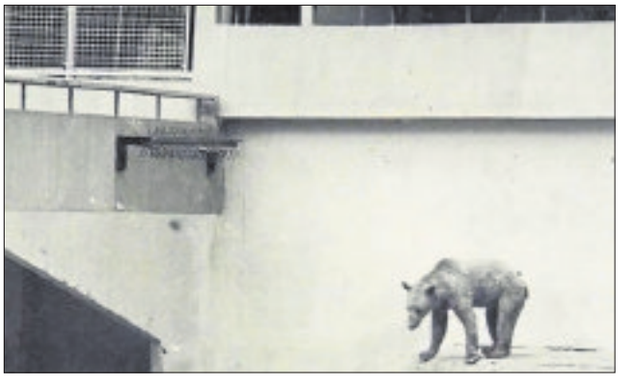
Drownie's name lives on in the ravine at Dudley Zoo



Tina – a female member of Dudley Zoo's bear family – in her enclosure

The bears in their 1930s Tecton home, which dates back to when the zoo opened

Workers found Tina's named ravine during restoration

Mr Tumper's name still daubed above his enclosure

Bear facts of life in zoo ravine uncovered during restoration

MEMORY LANE

Report by Lee Watton

THEY were once star attractions, delighting young and old alike, but their names had been forgotten until now.

Engineers revamping Dudley Zoo's bear ravine were surprised to discover the names of bears formerly housed at the building still painted over their den doors.

The discovery was made as workers began clearing out the den area at the base of the famous Tecton enclosure.

The names of the bears – Tina, Drownie and Mr Tumper – are daubed in paint above the metal den doors. All three would have lived within the enclosure and been a draw for visitors to the attraction.

Workers also discovered a steel-spiked roller used as a security measure on the lower cantilevered platform to prevent the animals reaching visitors.

It is not the first time long-hidden parts of the attraction's long history have been uncovered by an ongoing restoration project. Construction supervisor Carlo Diponio said the latest find made the history of the building 'come even more alive'.

"The den doors are still in great condition, although the dens themselves are not suitable for modern day animal husbandry," he said. "The roller just needs cleaning up and galvanising.

"It was a real surprise to discover the names of some of the bears who once lived there still clearly painted on the doors."

Zoo experts said it was not known when these particular bears lived at the attraction.

Dr David Beeston, registrar and research co-ordinator at the zoo, said the ravine was last used to house Himalayan brown bears in the late 1970s.

And bosses have confirmed the discovered names will be retained – remaining part of the attraction in future. Work on the bear ravine is being carried out as part of the second phase of a £1.15 million project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Earlier work has seen the iconic zoo entrance and the Safari Shop restored. Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock said restoration work would include adding a toughened piece of glass into the floor so visitors could view the dens underneath.

The steel roller will also be restored to its original position.

Balcony

Mr Suddock said: "We are hoping to keep an animal species on the lower level, which incorporates the original bear pit, but the dens won't be in use.

"By putting a clear glass panel in the floor of the balcony where visitors will be able to access it will allow them to see the dens below and spot the bear names for themselves."

Previous finds during the restoration include the discovery of an advertisement for Black Country sweet company Teddy Gray's rock. Workers removing paint on one of the old sweet kiosks made the find.

The advertisement dated back to 1937, when the zoo first opened to the public.

And workers at the bear ravine also previously came across an enamel plaque, dating from the 1950s, on the pit wall.

Both the kiosk and bear ravine are 1930s Tectons and date back to when the zoo first opened. The zoo has the world's single largest collection of Tecton buildings, 12 listed structures around the site intended for both animal and visitor use.

They were built by Berthold Lubetkin's Tecton Group. The ravine is considered by experts to be the most impressive Tecton within the collection, according to bosses at the attraction.

Workers have put up £15,000 of scaffolding around the bear ravine structure while work takes place.

This includes repairs and matching colours to the original paintwork. Cleaning of the building is costing £48,000.

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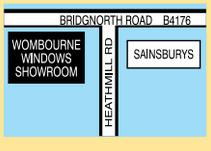

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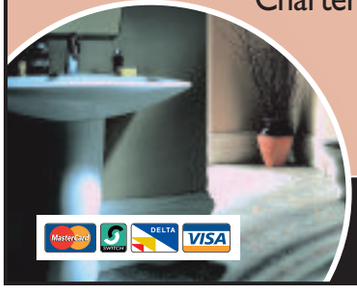

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Guest gives an insight into Wisdom

Wollaston 'E' TWG

THE January meeting was well attended by 42 members and it was agreed that the Christmas festivities went well. Together with soloist Ann Tomlinson the choir performed at both the group's own and the federation carol services. Proceeds from the guild service will be divided between Birmingham Children's Hospital and the Little Hearts charity.

The Christmas party went very well. Members were joined by friends from neighbouring guilds and entertained by an excellent ukulele band.

It has been decided that the annual subscriptions will remain the same, but the monthly admission fee raised to £1.50.

A ballot was taken at the meeting concerning the future format of the Christmas party. This issue will be discussed further at the next meeting.

A lunch booking for March 18 at the College of Food in Birmingham has been made.

The speaker for the evening, Mike Sampson, gave a wonderful insight into the life of Norman Wisdom. Raffle prizes were won by Joan Brooks and Chris Picken, and the competition prizes went to Jean Latham and Ann Turner.

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on February 10, at St James' Church Hall, Wollaston, when the speaker will be Mr D Cochrane. The competition involves an Australian memento. Non-members are most welcome.

Christmas flowers highlight of meeting

Jeremy Hobbs, vice chairman of Compton Hospice, seated in the chairbed presented by the Ladies from CAMEO

CAMEO Ladies

DURING the last year members were invited by Jeremy Hobbs to visit Compton Hospice and view the chairbed that had been donated with monies from their chosen charity of 2013.

'Christmas Flowers' by Peter Higgs was the highlight of the November meeting. Beautiful arrangements were taken home by lucky raffle ticket winners.

CAMEO Ladies ended a busy and fruitful 2014, with a Christmas celebration dinner at Goodyear's Pavilion and entertainment by Mike Brereton with visits from two Santas.

The first meeting of 2015 will be on Monday, February 2, the AGM, with a talk by Jane Barker representing Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) whereby a cheque will be presented for one of CAMEO's chosen charities of 2014.

Meetings are held at 7.45pm at the Mercure Goldthorn Hotel, Penn Road, Wolverhampton. For further information contact 01902 330727 or 01902 844836.

CAMEO Ladies look forward to another successful year.

Future of society decided

Kingswinford & District Historical Society

MORE than 30 people attended the first meeting of the year, to decide the future of the society.

It was proposed and accepted that the society should continue and the following were duly elected to form a committee:- Joyce Burns, Betty Holding, Ena Jones, Maggie Jones and Ron Julian. It was hoped that some new members would be co-opted onto the committee to ensure that the society continues after its 24th year.

The next meeting at 7.30 pm on February 2 will hear Terry Church speak on radio and television in the 1950s and 60s – entertainment as we knew it.

Meetings, normally on the first Monday in the month, are held at the Kingswinford Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford. Further information from Ron Julian 01384 295848.

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Family support facts on website

FAMILIES can access information on support and leisure services free through a website.

The Early Help and Family Information Service directory has details on support organisations, leisure facilities and childcare services in the Dudley borough.

It can be accessed by logging on to fis.dudley.gov.uk/fsd or calling (01384) 814398. Residents can also e-mail the team at fis.cs@dudley.gov.uk

Services listed on the directory include those offering advice on financial issues, parenting, breastfeeding, healthy lifestyles, play, schools, bullying and staying safe and much more.

Parents of disabled children will find useful contacts for available services across the borough. There is also detailed information about services and support arrangements available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs or Disability and their families.

Action plan to tackle patient waiting times for blood tests

WAITING times for patients having blood tests in Dudley will be reduced under plans to improve the service.

People have to wait an average of 30 minutes although at busy times it can take up to an hour for them to be seen by a phlebotomist.

Extra staff will be recruited to help meet the demand for the service and the waiting area for patients will be revamped at Russells Hall Hospital. The service is also being relocated within the hospital before March.

The number of blood test work stations and waiting rooms at the Corbett outpatient centre in Stourbridge will be increased.

It's not yet known how many extra phlebotomists will be recruited to take blood tests as the plans are still at an early stage.

Bosses at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust are also looking at offering patients the chance to book appointments and are also considering offering the service for the first time at the Guest outpatient centre in Dudley.

Demand

Paula Clark, chief executive of Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust said: "Due to increasing demand on our phlebotomy service, The Trust is looking into the feasibility of extending the service to help improve waiting times and provide a more comfortable area for patients to wait.

"Because the service is open access — patients do not need to book an appointment — the numbers of patients we see each hour can be unpredictable and the department can get very busy and overcrowded. This is generally for a short period in the morning.

"Our waiting time audits show that patients are often seen within 10 minutes of arrival and the average waiting time is no longer than 30 minutes. During peak times patients can wait up to 60 minutes to be seen by a phlebotomist.

"Our plan is to relocate the service within Russells Hall Hospital, increase the number of blood test work stations and waiting rooms at Corbett Outpatient Centre and consider offering the service at Guest Outpatient Centre. We plan to increase the number of phlebotomists taking blood tests and introduce planned booked appointments for some testing."

Firms urged to back forces day

COMPANIES are being urged to show their support for the armed forces by getting involved in a popular annual event.

Dudley Council is looking for firms in the area to sponsor this year's Armed Forces Day.

The event attracts around 8,000 visitors every year with activities held at Himley Hall and Park.

Sponsorship packages range from £1,000 to £5,000 but packages for lower values are available. Firms wanting to find out more are asked to visit www.dudley.gov.uk/business/advertising or telephone (01384) 815228. Or email promotions@dudley.gov.uk.

Council officials said Armed Forces Day recognised and celebrated both those currently serving and veterans.

This year's Armed Forces Day will be held in June.

Shoe drama puts couple off flying

John, 77, and Hilda Holland, 79, vow to never fly again

A PENSIONER hit on the head by a falling shoe on a plane has vowed she 'won't fly anymore'.

Hilda Holland, aged 79, from Rowley Regis, was badly injured when the footwear dropped from an overhead luggage compartment on the Thomas Cook flight on January 10. Fifty minutes into the flight from Fuerteventura to Birmingham, a fellow passenger opened the locker when the heavy leather suede shoe fell out.

Mrs Holland was treated by two nurses who happened to be on the Thomas Cook Airbus A321-211. The plane made a diversion to Lisbon where Hilda was rushed on a stretcher to hospital and given a CT scan, which showed no permanent damage. Mrs Holland was kept in overnight before she and husband John, 77, were allowed to return to the airport. She said: "I was sitting there and all of a sudden I felt a bang on my head. I blame it on people trying to take too much luggage on the plane because they don't want to pay. We won't fly anymore."

A spokesperson for Thomas Cook said: "We hope Mrs Holland makes a full recovery."

Chamber boss to highlight region

BLACK Country Chamber of Commerce's chief executive says she will use an upcoming conference to highlight the area in national business plans.

The British Chambers of Commerce annual conference will bring together senior politicians and business leaders to agree on a 'Business Plan for Britain', which they hope to pass on to the next Government after May's General Election.

The conference is intended to examine the ways in which Government can build a positive landscape for business. Discussions will centre on developing the talents of the next generation, growing UK exports, devolution to all regions of the UK and the Britain's relationship with the European Union.

Chief executive Margaret Corneby said: "This is an opportunity for Black Country businesses to shape the thinking of decision makers."

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'King' Foggy is to lead charity ride

THE King of the Jungle will lead thousands of bikers on a charity ride-out.

Midlands Air Ambulance Charity has announced that the current King of the Jungle and seven times World Superbike champion Carl 'Foggy' Fogarty will lead an expected 3,000 strong biker ride-out to officially kick-off the fifth Bike4Life Fest. The 23- mile motorbike procession, from Shrewsbury to the RAF Museum Cosford near Wolverhampton, takes place on Sunday, April 26.

Fogarty said: "I jumped at the chance to get involved with Bike4Life Fest 2015 to help support and raise awareness of the life-saving work of Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.

"This service is a vital lifeline for bikers with over 40 per cent of the incidents the aircrew responds to being road traffic collisions, which sadly often involve bikers.

"It's going to be a great honour to lead out the 3,000 strong bikers and I'd urge anyone who wants to be part of the event to kick start the motorcycle season to sign up."

Visit www.bike4lifefest.com. It costs £5 to register.

Pc Adrian Sheargold and Pride have been partners in fighting crime in the Black Country since 2009

Such Pride as rescue hero police dog is set to retire

PRIDE by name, pride by nature. A hero police dog who helped rescue a kidnapped girl in the Black Country is to retire after a glittering career.

Back in March 2009, the then two-year-old German Shepherd had just completed his training with West Midlands Police. He and Pc Adrian Sheargold were asked to search the cellar of a Bilston shop as part of an investigation into the disappearance of a 17-year-old girl.

Officers suspected the teenager may have been held hostage at the shop but after two fruitless searches Pride got a chance to investigate. Almost immediately, Pride started barking at a brick wall in the cellar, which led to the discovery of the teenager. Pc Sheargold said: "To some it may have seemed strange but through Pride's determination and behaviour I knew he had found something and he wasn't going to leave until we'd helped him investigate.

"It soon became clear it was a false wall. I have to admit I was terrified at what I was going to find."

A day after his third birthday, Pride collected the top Humanitarian Action Award from the Association of Chief Police Officers and was also recognised by Crufts for life-saving actions.

Pc Sheargold, who has been Pride's partner throughout his time with the force, praised the dog's contribution over the years. He said: "I think this job set a benchmark for our careers together. They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but there isn't much Pride needs to learn after such an amazing career."

New forms blamed as fewer on voting list

MORE than 9,000 people have fallen off the electoral register across the Black Country and South Staffordshire.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin blames a new application system for putting people off.

Nationally almost one million voters have disappeared from the register, particularly in towns and cities with large numbers of students and young people.

The government is overseeing the introduction of 'individual electoral registration' where each potential voter has to fill out a form — instead of one person completing a form for everyone in their household.

In South Staffordshire there has been a drop of 3,488 over the last year, while there are 2,189 fewer people registered in Sandwell.

By Adam Burling

Concerned

Some 1,681 people have fallen off the register in Cannock Chase, with 597 in Walsall, 551 in Dudley and 539 in Wolverhampton.

In total the number registered across all areas has gone from 1,008,632 to 999,587.

Mr Austin is calling for a drive to get more people signed up ahead of the General Election, saying he is concerned that thousands of people will not be eligible to vote in May as they are not on the register.

He said: "It's a scandal that thousands of people across the Black Country have lost their chance to vote since the introduction of this system.

"The Government must do much more to tackle the problems caused by these rushed reforms instead of sitting idle.

"I'll be doing everything I can to make sure everyone in Dudley is signed up and ready to cast their vote in May."

But the Government insists the process is being made simpler by scrapping the 'outdated head of household' registration system.

Bosses say the new system is able to verify that everyone on the register is who they say they are – ensuring elections are fair.

Minister of State at the cabinet Office Greg Clark said: "It is only right that in a country which has such a long and proud history of democratic participation, we ensure that we have an electoral registration system fit for the 21st century.

"These changes ensure that individuals register securely and enable them to register in the simplest possible way."

For information on how to register to vote visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

It's a record festive season at Poundland

POUNDLAND enjoyed a record festive season, overcoming 'tough' trading conditions to pull in more than seven million customers during Christmas week. The Black Country-based chain posted a record sales figure for the last three months of 2014, up 9.8 per cent to £328.4 million, as it plans to open 60 new stores in the UK and Ireland.

Chief executive Jim McCarthy said: "I am pleased to report another good quarter of sales growth and a record Christmas trading period. Despite the tough trading conditions, Poundland continued to perform well and we served more than seven million shoppers in the peak Christmas trading week alone. We have managed our costs and cash well, and we are in line with our financial expectations for the year as a whole."

The company, based in Willenhall, has put plans for an online operation on the back-burner as it concentrates on expanding across the UK, Ireland and now Spain.

Heritage railway line celebrates

A GOLDEN year awaits visitors to the Severn Valley Railway as the heritage line celebrates its 50th anniversary.

A programme of events will mark the meeting between of a group of young railway enthusiasts in a Kidderminster pub on July 6, 1965, which went on to form the Severn Valley Railway Society — 50 years later the Bridgnorth to Kidderminster line is going strong as a major tourist attraction.

The original SVR line had closed in 1963 under a cost-saving measure introduced by Dr Richard Beeching, then chairman of the British Transport Commission, which saw more than 2,000 stations shut across the country.

An anniversary programme will be in place for the Spring Steam Gala from March 20 to 22, which will feature a new exhibition at The Engine House Visitor Centre at Highley.

Former army medic jailed for secretly filming young woman

A PEEPING tom who installed a hidden camera to film a female student has been jailed for eight months.

By Lisa O'Brien

Trained physiotherapist David Heel hid the video camera in a small cardboard box in the bathroom of a house in South Staffordshire, Stafford Crown Court heard.

The victim, who cannot be identified, found the camera while using the bathroom.

Graham Russell, prosecuting, said the distraught young woman phoned her mother, who confronted Heel. He was later seen in his garage, smashing up his computer with a hammer, saying it was 'evil'.

He was subsequently taken to St George's Hospital in Stafford and kept in for 10 days suffering from a mental breakdown.

Heel, aged 55, of Albert Road, Kings Heath, admitted two charges of voyeurism.

Heel said the camera had not been connected directly to a computer but to a USB storage device. He admitted: "I gained sexual gratification when the image was observed on two occasions."

Paul Lamb, mitigating, said Heel had served in the army treating soldiers who had been seriously injured in the Falklands and Iraq wars. He said: "Some of the injuries were so horrific it had a profound effect on him. He had an honourable discharge from the army and had a well-respected position of responsibility up until a few months before these offences took place."

Since his arrest, Heel hasgot a job as a quality control manager within a health organisation.

Mr Lamb added: "He recognises he has caused a significant amount of distress. He was suffering from a degree of stress, he didn't receive any medical assistance at that point. "This was the catalyst for his breakdown."

Recorder Tracey Lloyd-Nesling said the crime involved 'a very significant breach of trust'. She told Heel: "Only an immediate custodial sentence is appropriate."

Heel was ordered to register as a sex offender for the next 10 years.

Run for your wife for a laugh

RAY Cooney's celebrated farce Run for Your Wife, about a bigamist with two wives, is being performed by Wordsley Amateur Dramatic Society this week.

The comedy is staged at Kingswinford Methodist Church tonight (Thursday), tomorrow and Saturday.

Nicholas Greaves, of the group said: "With it being so cold and dark and wet at the moment we wanted to do something a little light-hearted where people can come in and really enjoy themselves."

The play, directed by Dave Southall, is being performed for the first time by the society, which has 48 members.

Mr Greaves said: "It is worth coming just for the set alone. It is going to shock people as soon as the curtains open. It is based on the two houses of the two wives."

Doors open at 7pm at the Stream Road venue with tickets priced from £7. Visit www.wads-online.co.uk or call (01384) 273026.

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New cameras to catch motorway speeders

Driver beware – the new speed cameras will be installed on a stretch of the M6 on the overhead gantries

HARD-TO-SPOT speed cameras are to be installed on a stretch of the M6.

The Highways Agency says the new cameras, part of a £2.1 million national project, will be able to monitor all four lanes including the hard shoulder from overhead gantries. Conventional cameras are trained on one lane.

There are calls for the grey camera housings to be painted yellow like the old Gatso cameras on normal roads.

The Hadecs3 cameras will be installed between junctions 10a for the M54 and 13 Stafford of the M6. The work is part of the £87.5m smart motorways project which will bring in variable speed limits and open the hard shoulder to traffic in busy times.

Yellow

John Spellar, MP for Warley and a former transport minister, said: "When I was transport minister I ordered that speed cameras should be painted a clearly visible yellow. The aim should be to adjust behaviour, not to catch out motorists. It seems these are being sneaked into the managed motorway network.

"I instigated this programme of hard shoulder running which gives a big boost to capacity and better journeys. However, too often speed restrictions are left on when the congestion has passed. Police and Highways Agency should get their act together and stop fleecing the hard pressed motorists."

Hugh Bladon, of the Alliance of British Drivers, said: "The 70mph limit is not a speed that a lot of people bother to observe. It was brought in at a time when the stopping power of cars was a bit like stopping an oil tanker."

A Highways Agency spokesman said: "There are clear signs where cameras are in place."

Meanwhile, mobile speed cameras have accounted for 1,285 fines on Manor Way, the Halesowen bypass.

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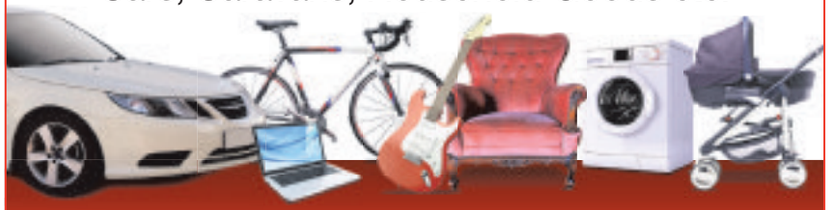

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Woman is jailed after two dogs left starving

A PET owner from Halesowen has been jailed for five months after leaving her two dogs starving, one dying as a result.

Jodi Russell, from Hillwood Road, was sentenced at Dudley Magistrates Court after magistrate Neville Jinks described the animal cruelty case as "one of the worst cases of animal cruelty this court has seen for a very long time".

The 28-year-old was also given a lifetime ban from looking after animals or being associated with them in any way.

Jailed — Jodi Russell

Russell, a mother of four, was found guilty of two charges of causing unnecessary suffering to the dogs and four charges of failing in her duty as an owner at Dudley Magistrates' Court.

Russell will serve a 20-week sentence for the offences, to run concurrently.

The court heard the dogs were described as 'lifeless' and given the lowest possible condition ratings by vets after they were seized from Russell's former home in Maple Road fourteen months ago.

One of the dogs, named Storm, was described as the thinnest a vet had ever seen and died within 24 hours. The other survived and was later re-homed.

The court heard how RSPCA charity inspector Steven Morrell found the dogs in a starving state in urine-soaked cages in the living room of Russell's home while children played around them.

Mr Daryll Foster, defending, said Russell was suffering emotionally when she had the dogs, following the death of her father and after splitting up with her partner.

He said: "Miss Russell, in hindsight, now accepts that she has done wrong."

Olympic seats for Tividale

With seats from the Olympic Stadium are Tividale FC club treasurer Richard Harrison, left, and first team manager Ian Long, at Packwood Road

TIVIDALE Football Club's battle to get their ground up to league standard has been helped by the arrival of a batch of seats from London's Olympic Stadium.

In the coming weeks a total of 190 yellow plastic seats are set to be fitted into the main stand at The Beeches ground, as the club embarks on a race against time to improve facilities at the stadium.

Tividale, who currently sit 14th in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League First Division South, have been told by league bosses they need to upgrade the ground by the end of March.

This includes fitting new seating in the New Birmingham Road stand as part of an increase in ground capacity to 1,300. An army of volunteers have already helped to install new turnstiles and changing rooms at the ground on Packwood Road.

A new standing area is planned for the Birch Terrace part of the stadium ahead of the start of the 2015/16 campaign.

Treasurer Richard Harrison said Tividale's secretary Leon Murray contacted bosses at the Olympic Stadium when he found out they were offloading yellow seats, a match for their mainly yellow strip.

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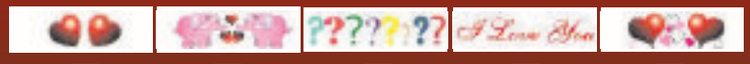

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Holocaust survivor tells of seeing mother killed

Holocaust survivor Hannah Lewis in front of a photograph of her mother during the commemoration event in Dud-

HANNAH Lewis was an ordinary little girl — until the day when she watched Nazis shoot her mother dead.

Only in recent years has Hannah, aged 77, felt able to tell her story, to make sure people never forget the horrors unleashed by Nazism.

"I am often asked why I talk about it. It is because what is awful is that this was not carried out by perpetrators in a fit of rage," said Hannah. "It wasn't by people in dispute and it was not by savage people. This was done to a blueprint."

Her story captivated an audience at Dudley College's Great Hall during the town's annual Holocaust commemoration.

Hannah was born in June 1937 in Włodawa, Poland, the much-loved only child of Adam and Haya. She came from a prosperous Jewish family.

Hannah's family were marched to a labour camp called Adampol in 1943.

Hannah's father managed to escape to join the partisans fighting the German invaders but returned to urge his wife to flee with their little daughter. But Haya told him Hannah was too weak with illness to escape. The next day Hannah saw her mother shot by a German killing squad.

"I saw her fall. I saw her blood on the snow. I knew I mustn't scream. I just stood there."

After the war Hannah joined relatives living in London. She married and has four children and eight grandchildren. She has returned twice to Adampol and went to the spot where her mother was murdered. But she did not speak about her experiences until 15 years ago.

"I would like to say I have been able to forgive but I have not," she said. "I have acceptance but that is different."

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MP fears impact of job cuts at hospital

AN MP has urged Government ministers to step in to prevent job losses at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital

By Rob Cox

In a passionate House of Commons speech Dudley North MP Ian Austin said the proposed cutting of 400 jobs at Russells Hall Hospital over the two years would have a significant impact on quality of care.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the hospital, is holding talks with staff and has opened a two-phased redundancy plan.

Speaking in a debate on the NHS, Labour MP Mr Austin said: "Everyone agrees that savings should first be sought among management and back office functions but the truth is even if they sacked every manager it wouldn't even come close to the sort of savings the hospital needs to make. Instead, making redundancies could affect theatre staff, radiologists, staff dealing with blood tests and even some midwives will be able to apply for redundancy.

"The trust says it will do everything it can to protect the service patients receive but no-one can pretend our hospital can lose almost one in 10 of its workforce without having a real impact on frontline patient care."

He told MPs that hundreds of residents had responded to his survey with 98 per cent saying they thought care at the hospital will deteriorate if job cuts go ahead.

While praising staff for battling "heroically" over Christmas, he said pressures on resources were increasing. He added: "In common with other NHS trusts the Dudley group is required to make efficiency savings of four per cent a year, which equates to £12 million each year. At the same time the hospital is facing costs pressures caused by increased demands on emergency services and providing seven day services."

Door into the past is found at historic park

Walled garden project leader Mick Freer takes a look at the bricked up door in Leasowes Park, Halesowen

A RENOVATION project at a historic walled garden has unearthed some hidden gems, including doorways dating back to the 18th century.

Members of the Halesowen Abbey Trust are carrying out a £500,000 project to restore the derelict site at the Grade I listed Leasowes Park to its former glory.

The doors, which date to 1776, were discovered while the site was being cleared. Project leader Mick Freer said they plan to restore the doorways.

Squeaky Joe is king again

THE Knights who say Ni are coming back to Birmingham. Spamalot, the hit West End show based on movie Monty Python and the Holy Grail, will be staged at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from February 2 to 7. Playing King Arthur will be squeaky-voiced comic Joe Pasquale.

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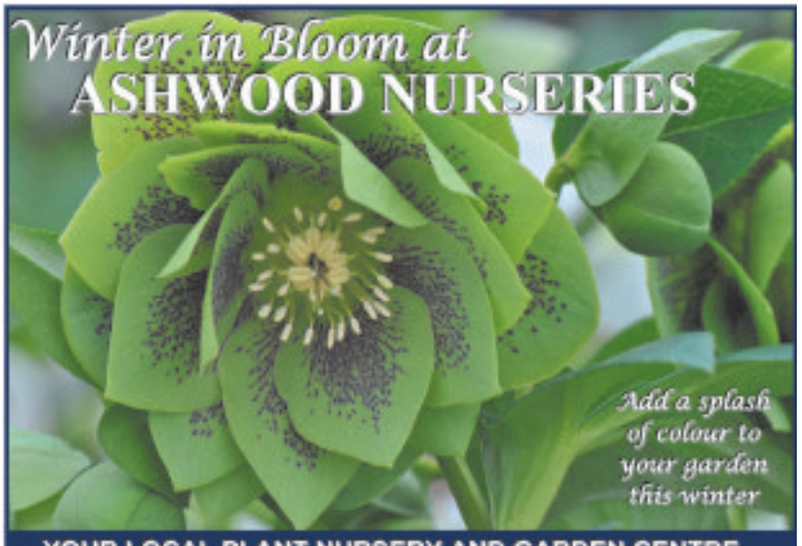

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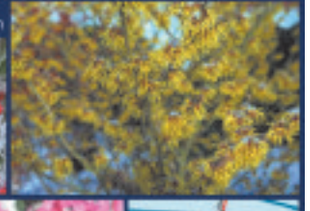

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New releases on DVD and Blu-ray

IF you missed out on some of the best recent TV shows there is a chance to catch up via the latest DVD and Blu-ray releases.

Hard-hitting BBC drama The Missing (15) stars James Nesbitt and Frances O'Connor as the frantic parents of five-year-old boy who goes missing on a French holiday, which leads to a gripping and heart-breaking quest. It is available for DVD and Blu-ray.

The first three series of the US remake of dark Danish thriller The Killing (15), with Mireille Enos as detective Sarah Lindon investigating a teenager's murder, is now available as a box set on DVD and Blu-ray. The fourth series was recently on Netflix.

History buffs may enjoy two new titles.

Britain's Bloodiest Dynasty The Plantagenets (15), shows actual medieval history is just as full of feuding families, violence and betrayal as a series of Game of Thrones. Dan Snow's docu-drama was originally shown on Channel 5. It's now out on DVD.

Britain has some of the finest castles in the world, largely thanks to those Normans and Plantagenets,. In BBC documentary Secrets Of The Castle time travelling historian Ruth Goodman joins archaeologists Peter Ginn and Tom Pinforld to learn the skills of the castle builders. They join an ambitious project to build a medieval style castle from scratch at Guedelon in France. It is available on DVD.

Ballet springs into action after £2.7m revamp of HQ

BIRMINGHAM Royal Ballet, is springing back into action for 2015 following the £2.7 million revamp of its HQ in the city.

The company presents An Evening of Music and Dance at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Saturday.

BRB director David Bintley will compere the event which will include classical favourites from the Royal Ballet Sinfonia plus scenes from the company's repertoire.

These will include Momoko Hirata as Swanilda in Coppélia, Céline Gittens as Odile in Swan Lake with Tyrone Singleton as The Prince, and Elisha Willis as Cinderella. There will also be the world premiere of a new ballet, Matryoshka, from BRB's Ruth Brill.

Dancers Miki Mizutani and Tzu-Chao Chou rehearse

Strictly

BRB then launches its season at Birmingham Hippodrome with Moving Stateside, featuring three American ballets, on February 18 and Coppélia from February 24.

Strictly Come Dancing judge and former Royal Ballet star Darcey Bussell, in her capacity as President of Birmingham Royal Ballet's Campaign for the Future, was among guests who last week got a tour of the company's refurbished building behind the Hippodrome, which has three state-of-the-art dance studios.

Ms Bussell said: "The new facilities will allow Birmingham Royal Ballet to welcome the community, nurture the talent of the future and maintain their position at the forefront of both British and international dance."

It also sends its professionals into schools to introduce ballet to youngsters.

BRB director David Bintley said that the studios meant nothing unless they were filled with dancers, particularly young people.

He added: "What we now have in this building is a wonderful platform to make that next step."

New 'king' and Queen still reign

Queen and Adam Lambert, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

AFTER all these years Queen still reign supreme. And the ecstatic fans at the packed Birmingham Barclaycard Arena were more than happy to be their loyal subjects as they brought the house down.

It was a sensational mix of the new 'king' Adam Lambert and long-time musicians still at the top of their game, Brian May and Roger Taylor, and brilliant interaction with the fans who were in awe throughout.

Lambert's ludicrously good vocal talents went perfectly with Queen's music. Since his spectacular performance with Queen on New Year's Eve at London's 02, music fans and critics Lambert have raved about him and after performances in Glasgow and Newcastle the shows have been hailed as 'an all-guns-blazing rock machine'.

And the Arena crowd echoed those sentiments as they clapped and sang along to one favourite after another, opening with One Vision and later the very appropriate We Will Rock You – and they did, Don't Stop Me Now – why would we want to? And We Are The Champions – no doubt about that! They saved that one for the end with the fans up on their feet. And there was of course the song crowned the UK's favourite Number One - Bohemian Rhapsody.

Adam Lambert and Brian May – terrific interaction with the fans

In fact it was Lambert's own virtual duet with Freddie Mercury, who appeared on a large screen to huge cheers from the crowd, on Bohemian Rhapsody that truly showed how well his vocals compete with the great man himself. Lambert paid tribute to 'the wonderful Freddie Mercury' by saying how much he had inspired him from an early age.

And in another poignant moment Roger Taylor sang These Are The Days Of Our Lives… as old images of the band flashed up on screen

With imagery of Mercury it was a fitting tribute to the man himself. No-one will ever be able to replace him but there's currently no-one else who could better fill his shoes.

SUE ATTWATER

Toyah getting up close and acoustic

PUNK princess, TV presenter and actress Toyah brings her Acoustic Up Close and Personal show to Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Thursday, February 5.

Birmingham's Toyah Willcox appeared in the Derek Jarman movies Jubilee and his surreal take on The Tempest, and mod favourite Quadrophenia, before her music career took over in the 1980s with hits including It's A Mystery and I Want To Be Free. As a TV presenter she has presented both The Good Sex Guide Late and Songs Of Praise!

There will be mirth as well as music with support from the Black Country's rising comedy star Jonny Cole and local rocker Steve Mercy. Call the box office on 01902 401211.

Lowings is back on home patch

KIM Lowings from Stourbridge has, with The Greenwood which is made up of Andrew Lowings, Tim Rogers and Dave Sutherland, established herself as a respected musician on the folk circuit with her strong and crystal clear singing.

She also plays a mean Appalachian dulcimer.

The band will be on their home patch on Friday January 30 when they play at The Woodman Folk Club which meets at the Marina, Kingswinford.

Tickets are £6 for members and £1 more for non-members.

The show starts at 8.30pm.

ADVERTISEMENT

Warm welcome at popular dance school

WHEN former competition dancers, George and Sue Weaver, set up Dance-XTreme in 2008 neither of them imagined how popular it would become.

Regular award winners George and Sue finally decided to retire from the rigours of competition dancing and start their own dance school. They now have a strong following of pupils that enjoy both Ballroom and Latin dancing. With Dance-X-Treme George and Sue have kept their passion for dance alive and from the success of the new school it's plain to see that they love teaching as much as they enjoyed competing.

Attending any class for the first time can be a daunting experience for anyone and the Dance-X-Treme Team which comprises George, Sue and several dedicated helpers understands this and makes sure newcomers, are made to feel very welcome.

The School's aim is to make sure pupils enjoy learning to dance and have fun. It caters for all levels and capabilities from beginners, through intermediate to advanced. Beginners can quickly achieve a level where they feel confident to take to the dance floor at any social event there's nothing worse than going to a dance and not feeling able to join in. Improvers and advanced dancers enjoy picking up tips and new routines that add to their enjoyment of dance. George and Sue have particularly focused on providing a friendly and safe environment for dancers, helpers are always on hand to make single ladies or gentlemen feel comfortable and at ease.

The school's aim is to make sure pupils enjoy learning to dance

Social dances organised by Sue and George have gained a reputation and sell out quickly. They are a great success with everyone enjoying the opportunity to use their new skills on the dance floor. As well as ballroom lessons, Dance-X-Treme has a lively latino mix class teaching Salsa, Cha Cha, Samba, Jive, Merengue and Rock n Roll.

George, said: "It doesn't matter where you are or how old you are, if there's music playing and you're confident just take to the dance floor for total satisfaction". To achieve total satisfaction at the next dance you go to, call George and Sue or just go along to any lesson and see for yourself.

The school's aim is to make sure pupils enjoy learning to dance

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Ted Danson

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Channel 5, 10pm)
Medical marijuana dispensary owner Lloyd Bryant's phone suddenly rings and he is played a video of his wife and children, bound and gagged. Following instructions via text message, he puts money into a duffle bag and hands it to a nervous-looking customer, who raises the suspicion of the store's security guard, and is shot dead. DB and the team learn that the jittery woman was a cancer patient named Allison Ball, who recently received a video of her brother Stuart, who had also been abducted. Crime drama, starring Ted Danson, Elisabeth Shue, George Eads, Jorja Fox, Eric Szmanda, Robert David Hall, Wallace Langham, Marc Vann, David Berman and Richard Speight Jr.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.20** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.30 Now You See It. The best and worst of the magic world, featuring a man who disguises himself as an armchair and strange happenings in a chip shop, as well as a few tricks going wrong.

7.00 The Voice UK. The competition forges ahead with the fourth round of the blind auditions and the continuing campaigns by coaches Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Ricky Wilson and Rita Ora to build a 12-strong team. As ever, the fun starts whenever more than one coach wants the same singer and argue why they would make the best mentor.

8.30 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants pick a selection of dream prizes to make up their personal wish lists, all of which have a connection to their shared history together. They then face categories of questions in an attempt to win their chosen items.

9.20 Casualty. A single father and his two teenage children are brought in after a car crash, but the dad only seems concerned about his daughter, leaving his son feeling neglected. Big Mac's money worries lead him to a pawn shop – where he encounters a window cleaner who appears to have been stabbed – and a man is admitted with abdominal pain, although the doctors become suspicious when they can find nothing wrong with the patient. A determined Connie throws herself into work after losing Grace, Tess returns to the department and Honey is surprised when Ethan gives her the cold shoulder – especially after they had been getting so close.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day; National Lottery Update.

12.00 The Football League Show. **1.20 Film:** Stark Raving Mad. (2002) **2.55** Weather for the Week Ahead. **3.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.45 Film: Bitter Victory. (1957) **8.25** Live Tennis: Australian Open Women's Final. **11.30** Animal Park. (R) **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.45** Hollywood Greats. (R) **1.25 Film:** Lust for Life. (1956) Biopic of Van Gogh, starring Kirk Douglas. **3.25 Film:** Hidalgo. (2004) Period adventure, with Viggo Mortensen. **5.30** The Great British Sewing Bee – Class of 2014. (R)

6.30 Flog It! Experts Kate Bateman and David Barby search for antiques that can be sold for a profit in Colchester, Essex, where finds include boxes of old toy cars and an art deco item. Presenter Paul Martin tracks down the last remaining practitioner of an ancient craft that once lifted people out of poverty.

7.30 Attenborough's Paradise Birds. Among David Attenborough's life-long passions are birds of paradise, which he has tracked all over the jungles of New Guinea to film their beautiful and often bizarre displays. In this documentary, he examines how and why these creatures have captivated explorers, naturalists, artists, film-makers and even royalty, investigating the myths surrounding their discovery 500 years ago, the latest extraordinary behaviour captured on camera and the science behind their beauty. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. The platoon takes part in an exercise with the regular army and everything goes well – until Mainwaring assumes the role of an enemy agent on the run. (R)

9.00 QI. Quiz with a difference, in which the questions are so difficult points are awarded for the answers host Stephen Fry finds most interesting.

9.30 The Secret World of Lewis Carroll. Martha Kearney explores the life and work of the author of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, and examines what lies behind the book's enduring appeal to adults and children alike.

10.30 Film: Ginger & Rosa. (2012) Premiere. Drama, starring Elle Fanning and Alice Englert.

11.55 Film: The Tempest. (2010) A sorceress plans revenge on her brother for sending her into exile when a storm strands him on her island home. Shakespearean fantasy, starring Helen Mirren.

1.40 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** The Undriveables. (R) **2.10** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.10** Doc Martin. (R) **4.10** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **5.10** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.20** ITV News; Weather. **5.30** You've Been Framed! A-Z of Animals. (R)

6.30 Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. A sales assistant, a senior manager of a tanning salon chain, a children's singing tutor, a mother and a student impersonate famous singers as they vie for a place in the final.

7.30 Planet's Got Talent. Featuring a group of flexible Chinese men, a six-year-old dancer, a cowboy with impressive rope skills and a contestant who extinguishes candles by squirting water from his eyes.

8.05 Take Me Out. Dancer Rob from London, barman Ryan from Leicester, security guard Karl from Dublin and busker Jamie from Kent vie for the attentions of 30 single women, intent on capturing their interest and securing a date. However, first they must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Host Paddy McGuinness monitors their progress and reviews the dating action from last week's couples on the Isle of Fernandos.

9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Great British Bake Off presenters Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins, veteran actress Diana Rigg and Benidorm star Johnny Vegas.

10.25 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Film: The Shawshank Redemption. (1994) A banker wrongly jailed for his wife's murder forms an extraordinary friendship with a fellow inmate over the course of their sentences. Drama, with Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman.

1.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Trans World Sport. **7.00** Killarney Adventure Race. **7.25** Itera Expedition Race. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** The King of Queens. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** Speed with Guy Martin. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park, Ffos Las and Wetherby. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **5.30** The Simpsons. (R)

6.00 The Simpsons. Bart tracks down a former student after Groundskeeper Willie reveals that he pulled off the "ultimate prank", and Marge starts shopping at a natural foods store. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Restoration Man. After living in a bungalow for 25 years, Yorkshire couple Carol and Majid Nadry embark on an ambitious midlife adventure – buying a water tower to turn into a five-storey home. As they battle with the huge rusting tank on top of the building, they encounter devastating legal problems, and unexpected costs hit their budget. However, the pair refuse to give up on their mission to create a one-off design, and architect George Clarke encourages them to see their daunting challenge through, while detailing the seismic changes in architectural history that this structure's humble appearance conceals. (R)

8.00 The World's Weirdest Weather. New series. Bizarre climatic conditions, including a vast cave system with its own weather, plus glow-in-the-dark waves, an upside-down rainbow and "spider lightning".

9.00 Film: Ted. (2012) Premiere. A lonely boy makes a wish at Christmas that his teddy bear will come to life, which is magically granted. The boy grows up to become a directionless slacker, with the foul-mouthed living toy still his inseparable friend – but his girlfriend thinks it is time for him to grow up. Comedy, starring Mark Wahlberg and Mila Kunis.

11.10 Film: Your Highness. (2011) Fantasy comedy, with Danny McBride.

1.05 The Last Leg. (R) **2.00 Film:** Prizzi's Honor. (1985) **4.10** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Access. **10.45** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **11.45** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.40** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.40** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **2.40 Film:** Columbo: A Friend in Deed. (1974) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **4.35 Film:** Columbo: A Deadly State of Mind. (1975) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk.

6.10 NCIS. A commander who knows the location of a shipment of nuclear fuel rods is abducted, and the team is called in to try to identify the kidnapper. Guest starring Zac Efron. (R)

7.00 NCIS. The wives of two marines are murdered, and although Gibbs initially suspects they were victims of domestic violence, subsequent developments suggest the case may involve professional killers who already have their next victim in mind. Drama, starring Mark Harmon and Cote de Pablo. (R)

7.55 NCIS. The team suspects a desperate marine may have faked his own death with the help of a friend and blown up an ambulance in a botched attempt to cover all traces of the subterfuge. (R)

8.50 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. Catching up with the celebrities as they react to Friday night's eviction, revealing how the departure has affected the remaining contestants – and whether the outcome of the public vote has anyone else fearing for their place in the competition.

10.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. The family of the owner of a medical marijuana dispensary are held hostage, but the investigation is made harder when a potential witness is killed by a security guard.

10.55 Law & Order. Lupo and Green embark on their first official case together – investigating a kidnapping that involved the murder of a housekeeper and occurred during a city-wide blackout.

11.50 Criminals: Caught on Camera. Nick Wallis discovers how CCTV and technological advances are helping to tackle criminals exhibiting a complete disregard for the safety of others while at the wheel of a vehicle. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **8.00** Top Gear **9.00 Film:** Blades of Glory (2007) **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News **11.00** Family Guy **2.00** Crims **2.30** South Side Story **3.00** Life Is Toff **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 The First World War from Above **8.00** Bright Lights, Brilliant Minds: A Tale of Three Cities **9.00** Spiral **10.50** Charlie Brooker's Weekly Wipe **11.20** Pop Charts Britannia: 60 Years of the Top 10 **12.50** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.40** Play it Loud: The Story of the Marshall Amp **2.40** Bright Lights, Brilliant Minds: A Tale of Three Cities **3.40** Close

ITV2
11.40 Megan Trainor: The Hot Desk **11.50** The Cube: Celebrity Special **12.55 Film:** Homeward Bound II: Lost in San Francisco (1996) **2.40 Film:** Honey (2003) **4.35 Film:** E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) **6.50 Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **9.20** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.05 Film:** Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **11.55** Celebrity Juice: The Special Special **12.55** Fake Reaction **1.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Life's Funniest Moments **2.45** McBusted: The Hot Desk **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.00 A Touch of Frost **2.00** Wycliffe **3.05 Film:** George and Mildred: The Movie (1980) **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Lewis **12.05** A Touch of Frost **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.40 World Rally Championship Highlights **12.45** Darts: The Masters Live **5.00** Storage Wars **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **6.55** UEFA Champions League Hat-Trick Heroes **7.00** Darts: The Masters Live **11.00** Africa Cup of Nations Highlights **12.00 Film:** The Quest (1996) **2.00** Hell on Wheels **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 2 Broke Girls **11.30** New Girl **12.30** Melissa & Joey **1.30** How I Met Your Mother **2.30** Bad(ish) Robots **3.30** Rude(ish) Tube **4.30** Troy **5.35** The 100 **6.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Terminator Salvation (2009) **11.15** The Inbetweeners **12.20** 2 Broke Girls **12.55** New Girl **1.25** How I Met Your Mother **2.20** Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23 **3.05** Suburgatory **3.50** Charmed **4.35** Bad(ish) Robots **5.00** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4
11.00 The Mistress of Spices (2005) **1.00** The Simpsons Movie (2007) **2.55** The Longest Day (1962) **6.30** Stardust (2007) **9.00** The American (2010) **11.05** Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (2009) **12.50** 30 Days of Night (2007) **3.15** Close

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CHOICE

Davina McCall

The Jump (Channel 4, 7pm)
New series. Return of the celebrity-packed winter-sport competition, presented by Davina McCall. Former Pussycat Doll Ashley Roberts, Jackass daredevil Steve-O, model Jodie Kidd, Made in Chelsea star Louise Thompson, ex-England rugby captain Mike Tindall, philanthropist Heather Mills, socialite Victoria Hervey, former JLS member JB Gill, singer-presenter Stacey Solomon, Paralympic cyclist Jon-Allan Butterworth, Richard and Judy's daughter Chloe Madeley, dancer Louie Spence, Gogglebox favourite Dom Parker, heptathlete Louise Hazel, A Question of Sport team captain Phil Tufnell and reality TV's Joey Essex are the 16 familiar faces flying to the Austrian Alps for this year's contest.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Eat Well for Less? (R) **4.00** Your Home in Their Hands. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.00 Animals in Love. Liz Bonnin presents the first of two programmes exploring animal relationships, finding out how they meet, mate and form relationships, and asking whether they can fall in love the same as humans. On her travels, she finds several animals that have discovered the secrets of successful long-lasting relationship, including the bonobo of the Congo, Africa's wild dogs and tamarins in the UK. But there are other sides to the story, like the devoted penguin couple that stayed together for 10 years, only for things to turn out not quite as they seemed. Liz also hears how a Siamaon gibbon dealt with the death of his life partner and meets a pair of elephants with an extraordinary friendship.

7.00 Countryfile. A visit to West Yorkshire, featuring a trail of stones with a poetic theme, a volunteer-run farm and the story of an 18th-century counterfeit scam.

8.00 Call the Midwife. A mum-to-be is distraught when her husband is arrested for gross indecency in the gents, while a pregnant Irish woman in need of nourishment goes missing.

9.00 Last Tango in Halifax. Gillian's wedding day arrives, but the bride is suffering a serious case of cold feet, leaving Caroline to get to the bottom of her stepsister's reluctance. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Arsenal v Aston Villa and Southampton v Swansea City. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League matches at the Emirates Stadium and St Mary's Stadium respectively.

11.30 The Apprentice USA.

12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.55 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The Football League Show. (R) **7.20** Countryfile. (R) **8.15** Live Tennis: Australian Open Men's Final. **12.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **1.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **2.00** Food & Drink. (R) **2.30** Joan Fontaine: Talking Pictures. (R) **3.00 Film:** Ivanhoe. (1952) Medieval adventure, starring Robert Taylor. **4.45** Flog It! Trade Secrets. **5.15** Ski Sunday.

6.00 The Coffee Trail with Simon Reeve. In the second of two This World documentaries examining the stories behind the nation's favourite beverages, adventurer and broadcaster Simon Reeve looks at the production of coffee. He heads to Vietnam, which is the UK's biggest supplier, and travels to the remote central highlands where he meets some of the millions who grow, pick and pack the beans for instant coffee brands. (R)

7.00 The Motorway: Life in the Fast Lane. Documentary series following one of the busiest stretches of motorway in Britain, where the M6 joins up with four other major routes. The men and women working behind the scenes spend their lives helping travellers get from A to B as safely and as quickly as possible in an area that often sees up to 8,000 vehicles an hour. Repairs to the road are one of the main problems to overcome, and the source of various disputes with residents – as locals Jim and Alan reveal. (R)

8.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May go on a road trip across Australia's Northern Territory in GT cars.

9.00 Dragons' Den. A mother and daughter pitch waterproof products for children, while a trio of breakdancers introduce the Dragons to some innovative earphones. Evan Davis presents.

10.00 Film: True Grit. (2010) A farm girl recruits a hard-drinking, one-eyed marshal to help her track down the man who killed her father. The Coen brothers' Western, with Jeff Bridges and Hailee Steinfeld.

11.45 Film: New Jack City. (1991) Two maverick cops set out to topple a drugs baron who has transformed an apartment block into a seemingly impregnable fortress. Action thriller, with Wesley Snipes.

1.20 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.15** Holby City. (R) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. (R) **1.40** Off Their Rockers. (R) **2.10** Mel & Sue's Best Bits. **3.15** Tipping Point. (R) **4.15 Film:** The Spy Who Loved Me. (1977) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Get Your Act Together. Actor James Bolam is mentored by singer Michael Ball, A Question of Sport captain Phil Tufnell teams up with acrobatic basketball freestylers Face Team, model Amy Willerton is coached by the Veslovskis from Moscow State Circus, Emmerdale's Matthew Wolfenden and Natalie Anderson join Keelan Leyser's Quick Change Artists, and actress Chelsee Healey collaborates with aerial dance duo Starfiz.

8.15 All Star Family Fortunes. TV presenter Helen Skelton and Irish crooner Daniel O'Donnell team up with their families in an attempt to win a jackpot of £30,000 for charity. Vernon Kay hosts.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. Harry pursues a new charitable project, Crabb faces a professional dilemma, a major fashion event proves a challenge for the staff and Miss Mardle decides to make a fresh start.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Perspectives – The Man in the Hat: Rene Magritte with Will Young. A fan of Magritte since the age of 15, singer and actor Will Young travels to the surrealist artist's native Belgium to explore his life, work and legacy. (R)

11.15 LV= Cup Rugby Union. Highlights of the latest pool matches, which included Harlequins v Bath, Gloucester v Ospreys and Wasps v Cardiff Blues.

12.10 The Store. **2.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.15** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 NFL: Rush Zone. **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00 Film:** Penelope. (2006) Romantic fantasy, starring Christina Ricci. **4.50** Channel 4 News. **5.20 Film:** Mr Popper's Penguins. (2011) Family comedy, starring Jim Carrey.

7.00 The Jump. New series. Return of the celebrity-packed winter-sport competition, presented by Davina McCall. Former Pussycat Doll Ashley Roberts, Jackass daredevil Steve-O, model Jodie Kidd, Made in Chelsea star Louise Thompson, ex-England rugby captain Mike Tindall, philanthropist Heather Mills, socialite Victoria Hervey, former JLS member JB Gill, singer-presenter Stacey Solomon, Paralympic cyclist Jon-Allan Butterworth, Richard and Judy's daughter Chloe Madeley, dancer Louie Spence, Gogglebox favourite Dom Parker, heptathlete Louise Hazel, A Question of Sport team captain Phil Tufnell and reality TV's Joey Essex are the 16 familiar faces flying to the Austrian Alps for this year's contest.

8.00 The Hotel. Mark plans a big wrestling event for the Cavendish, hoping that success could turn the hotel into a centre for the sport, while Mike organises a 1970s night.

9.00 Our Guy in India. Part one of two. Guy Martin takes a 1,000-mile journey across India to compete in a race called Rider Mania, the world's largest gathering of Royal Enfield motorbikes. Along the way, the daredevil rides with a 50-strong biker gang, visits Asia's biggest truck yard and clambers 833ft to the top of India's tallest building, the Imperial skyscraper in Mumbai. Although he's used to living life to the extreme, Guy finds himself completely out of his comfort zone, from sleeping rough among rats, to experiencing the torrential rain of a monsoon.

10.05 The Simpsons. (R)

10.30 The Super Bowl: American Football Live.

3.30 SuperScrimpers. (R) **3.40** Kirstie's Best of Both Worlds. (R) **4.35** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) **5.30** Face the Clock. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. **7.05** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.15** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.20** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.35** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.30** Wanda and the Alien. **8.45** Zack and Quack. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Access. (R) **10.40** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **11.40** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **12.35** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **1.35 Film:** A Little Princess. (1995) Family drama, with Liesel Matthews. **3.25 Film:** Hoodwinked. (2005) Animated comedy, with the voice of Anne Hathaway. **4.55 Film:** Made of Honor. (2008) Romantic comedy, starring Patrick Dempsey and Michelle Monaghan.

6.50 Film: Hellboy II: The Golden Army. (2008) The demon superhero, aided by a team from the Bureau of Paranormal Research and Defence, leads the fight against renegade elf Prince Nuada who is intent on reawakening an unstoppable robot army and bringing about the demise of mankind. Action fantasy sequel directed by Guillermo del Toro, starring Ron Perlman, Selma Blair, Doug Jones and Luke Goss. Edited for language and violence.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The remaining housemates embark on their final week, knowing only one of them can be crowned Celebrity Big Brother winner on Friday night. This has certainly been one of the most tense houses in recent history – can it possibly get any worse as the celebrities begin to eye up the prize?

10.00 Film: Justice. (2011) A man is approached by vigilantes after his wife is attacked, but learns the price for their help is that he must kill someone. Thriller, with Nicolas Cage and January Jones.

12.00 Britain's Flashiest Families. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Storage: Flog the Lot! (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **7.30** The Voice UK **9.00** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **9.30** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **10.50** Crims **11.20** Family Guy **12.05** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **12.35** South Side Story **1.05** Bangkok Airport **2.00** Life Is Toff **3.00** Bangkok Airport **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Shoah: Second Era **11.40** Sound of Song **12.40** Kraftwerk: Pop Art **1.40** Synth Britannia **3.10** Sounds of the 70s 2 Troubadours – Peaceful Easy Feeling **3.40** Close

ITV2
11.55 Take Me Out **1.10** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.55** You've Been Framed! **2.25** Scorpion **3.15 Film:** Stormbreaker (2006) **5.05 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **6.55 Film:** Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde (2003) **9.00 Film:** The Matrix (1999) **11.40** Tricked: More Favourite Tricks **12.40** Fake Reaction **1.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.10** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.35 Sherlock Holmes: The Last Vampyre **1.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.45** Rosemary & Thyme **4.45** Inspector Morse **7.00** Lewis **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00** Northern Lights **11.05 Film:** Pride and Prejudice (2005) **1.40** Countrywise Kitchen **2.30** Judge Judy **3.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
12.45 Darts: The Masters Live. Coverage of the quarter-finals. **5.00** Africa Cup of Nations Highlights **6.00** Counting Cars **7.00** Darts: The Masters Live **11.00** Africa Cup of Nations Highlights **12.00 Film:** Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1998) **2.20** Nitro Circus **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Revenge **1.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.30** The 100 **3.30** Melissa & Joey **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.00** Marry Me **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Drillbit Taylor (2008) **10.05** The Big Bang Theory **10.35** The Inbetweeners **11.40** The Cleveland Show **1.10** Rules of Engagement **2.10** Suburgatory **2.55** One Tree Hill **3.35** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 An Elephant Called Slowly (1970) **1.00** Letters to Juliet (2010) **3.05** The Wizard of Oz (1939) **5.10** The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) **7.10** (500) Days of Summer (2009) **9.00** Immortals (2011) **11.10** Nosferatu the Vampyre (1979) **1.20** The Yards (2000) **3.45** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Angels Fall, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A chef who was the only survivor of a massacre tries to make a fresh start working at a diner in a remote rural town. She witnesses a murder in the wilderness and reports it to the police, but when a body is not found, the locals begin to suspect her traumatic experience has driven her mad. Drama based on Nora Roberts' novel, starring Heather Locklear. (2007)

TUESDAY
Carry On Jack, ITV, 11.10pm
A bumbling midshipman's uniform is stolen by a woman desperate to go to sea, who adopts his identity. Later, the hapless sailor is press-ganged on to the same ship as her. However, while trying to prove who he really is, he has to contend with mutinies, pirates and the Spanish Navy. Comedy, with Bernard Cribbins, Juliet Mills, Kenneth Williams and Charles Hawtrey. (1963)

Things We Lost in the Fire, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY
Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, BBC1, 11.45pm
An antiques dealer in a Deep South town kills his gay lover after a lavish Christmas gathering, claiming his actions were in self-defence. A journalist sent to write a feature on the party stays in town to cover the trial, and delves into the secretive local underworld to discover what really happened that night. Fact-based drama directed by Clint Eastwood, starring John Cusack, Kevin Spacey and Jude Law. (1997)

THURSDAY
Seduced by Lies, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman hopes to make a fresh start with a new relationship in defiance of her father's wishes, and turns her back on old friends when they are suspicious of her boyfriend. However, she gradually comes to realise that he has a shady past and is not as perfect as he appears. Thriller, starring Josie Davis. (2010)

FRIDAY
Things We Lost in the Fire, BBC2, 11.05pm
Devoted family man Brian tries to support his heroin-addicted friend Jerry, who has lost everything through his drug habit. When Brian is unexpectedly killed, his devastated widow Audrey invites Jerry to live with her and her children, and helps him to turn his life around. Drama, starring Halle Berry, Benicio Del Toro and David Duchovny. (2007)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Paul's not hanging around in this series

Paul O'Grady's not afraid to admit he's a big old softie – well, we see it in every episode of his For the Love of Dogs series, in which he manages to turn even the hardiest of us to mush.

While this is something slightly different, it still has that 'aw' factor and the ever-giving Paul can be content in the knowledge that he's still doing his bit for the animal kingdom.

Yes, this series had 'Paul O'Grady' written all over it, so it was little surprise when it aired for the first time last year that he was brought on board to present.

Paul has the best of both worlds as far as his career is concerned now, combining his love for animals in this series and For the Love of Dogs with the glitz and glamour of talking to celebrities on his live chat shows.

He explained to TV Choice: "I think I blend the two, although I'm sort of known now for animals. I used to drop hints on my tea time chat show when I'd have an owl on my head, a chicken on the desk and a dog under my arm. I was basically saying, 'Please hire me for an animal show because it's something I'd really like to do.'"

In Animal Orphans, he's been meeting animals that have been orphaned in the wild in South Africa and Zambia. Our host learns that many of these – lions, cheetahs, hippos, elephants, baboons, and rhinos, among others – are in fact orphaned because of humans; either because their parents have been poached and killed, or their natural habitat has been destroyed.

And while it's been a pleasure, this touching series wraps up tonight, with Paul visiting Bambelela, a rehabilitation centre for orphaned vet monkeys.

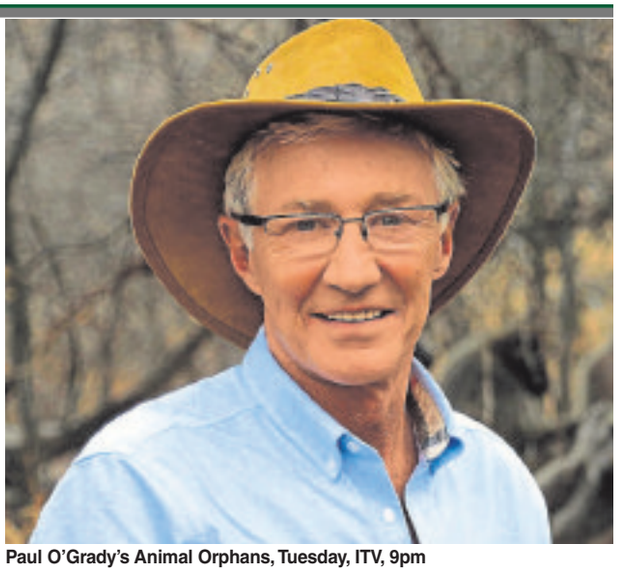
Cameras follow Paul as he cares for 10-month old Toledo, playing with him, feeding and trying to get him to settle at night – which isn't the easiest of tasks.

The presenter is also on hand to help test a troop of older monkeys to see if they're ready for life in the wild. An important thing to ensure is that they've understood and learned the calls and behaviours needed to escape predators – so it's time to bring out the rubber snakes, an eagle kite and a toy leopard.

Paul also visits Mohololo Rehab Centre again, and discovers what it's like to be a volunteer with daily walks through the bush, cleaning the enclosures, and looking after the smelliest animal at the centre – the honey badger. Paul hits it off with five-month-old Julius, whose mum was hit by a car – but the badger takes quite a shine to the presenter and scent marks him several times.

Paul exclaims: "I feel like I've been trapped in a lift with 18 people who suffer from the worst BO in the world."

Plus, Paul revisits Olive the rhino, who he met in episode one, and chats with an anti-poaching activist, and before leaving Africa, he meets two giraffes and helps a velvet monkey find a new troop.


Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans, Tuesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Broadchurch
ITV, 9pm
Reviews for the second series of Chris Chibnall's landmark drama series may not have been quite as uniformly enthusiastic as for the first, but we still reckon it's one of the most compelling shows on telly. One of the reasons why it works so well is that all the characters have flaws – a fact which makes them both believable and relatable. Even hard-nosed defence barrister Sharon Bishop has her sympathetic moments – although not so many that you feel too sorry for her in the courtroom. Mind you, someone must sympathise, as this week she receives some help from a very unexpected source indeed. Meanwhile, as Hardy and Ellie continue their unofficial investigation into the Sandbrook case, some new information comes to light which calls into question everything which they thought they knew about the events. Surely Hardy can't have been barking up the wrong tree all this time? Mind you, it wouldn't be the first time Broadchurch has left us reeling.

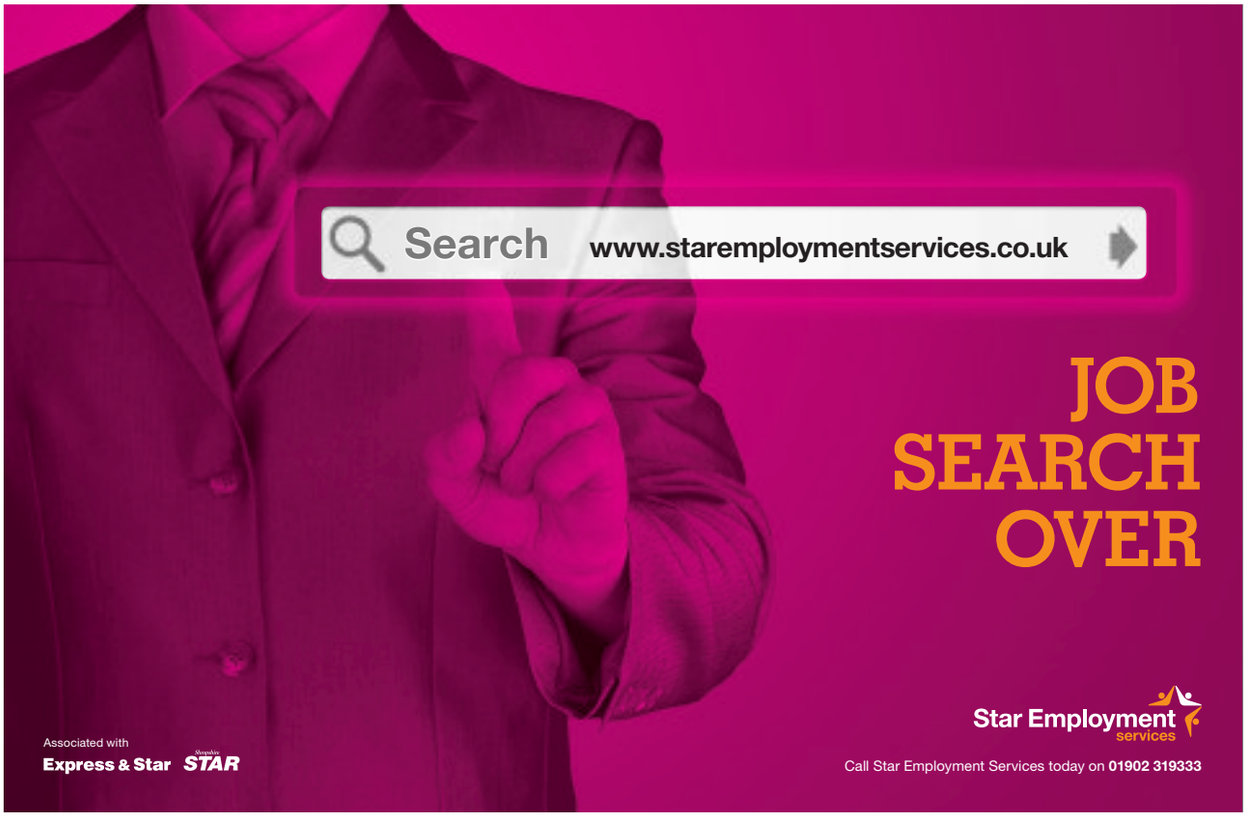
TUESDAY
Inside the Commons
BBC2, 9pm
New series. Michael Cockerell presents a documentary filmed over the course of a year in the House of Commons, giving an insight into the day-to-day life and work of everyone from the Prime Minister to those who maintain the building. Cameras follow relatively new MPs Charlotte Leslie and Sarah Champion as they learn the ways of the House, while David Cameron and his opposite number Ed Miliband reveal what happens at Prime Minister's Questions. The programme also meets a gospel-singing tea lady who works in the members' tea room and joins a maintenance team abseiling down the face of the clock tower.

WEDNESDAY
Midsomer Murders
ITV, 8pm
When a pub landlady is crushed to death by a giant box during a magic show organised by famous illusionist Gideon Latimer, pathologist Kate discovers the cables had been deliberately sabotaged. Evangelising curate Andrew Maplin claims the tragedy is God's vengeance for the pagan traditions still held deep in Midsomer Oaks, but Barnaby and Nelson fear Gideon was the real target. Neil Dudgeon, Gwilym Lee and Tamzin Malleson star in the murder mystery, with Joe Absolom, Andrew-Lee Potts, Justin Salinger, Amanda Burton and Stephanie Leonidas.

THURSDAY
The Great British Sewing Bee
BBC2, 8pm
Needles at the ready, Claudia Winkleman is back for a new series that gives 10 home sewers the chance to prove that they are among the best in Britain. As you'd expect, they're an eclectic bunch, ranging from retired air hostess Lorna, who has always made her own clothes because at 6ft tall she struggles to find anything to fit her in the shops, to Neil, an army Lieutenant Colonel who began sewing at school in protest at the girls being allowed to join the football team. But no matter what their backgrounds or how much experience they might have, they will all be feeling nervous as they prepare to be judged by Savile Row's Patrick Grant and the WI's May Martin for the first time. For the opening episode, the theme is cotton as the stitchers are asked to make a pair of women's trousers, give a new lease of life to a denim shirt, and then whip up a summer dress for their real-life model.

The Great British Sewing Bee, Thursday, BBC2, 8pm

FRIDAY
Live Six Nations Rugby Union
BBC1, 7.30pm
Wales v England (Kick-off 8.05pm). John Inverdale introduces coverage of the opening match of this year's championship, which takes place at the Millennium Stadium. The tournament seems difficult to predict this time around, with Ireland joining these two nations as the favourites, but given the number of injuries suffered by England in recent weeks, the Welsh will expect to make the most of home advantage and start with a victory. While this is always a keenly contested encounter, there is even greater importance attached to it this evening, with the sides looking for a psychological boost ahead of their meeting in the pool stage of this year's World Cup in September. With commentary by Eddie Butler, Brian Moore and Martyn Williams, reports by Sonja McLaughlan, and analysis by Clive Woodward, Jonathan Davies and Jeremy Guscott.



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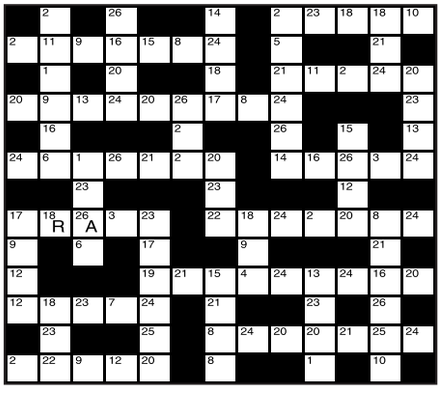
BRAIN GYM No.310

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18 R
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26 A

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
P	N	A	O	M	C	U	F	H	D	Y	L	T
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
J	E	K	G	B	V	W	Q	Z	R	X	S	I

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

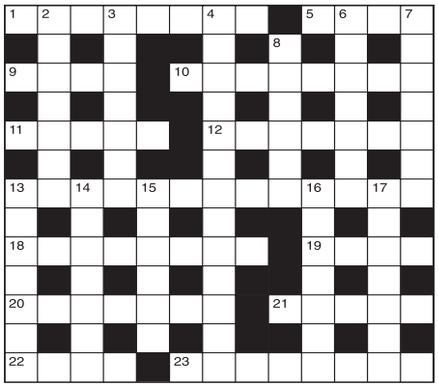
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Their wares are brought into play (3-5)
5. One unusually old object of veneration (4)
9. This jumper will cause irritation (4)
10. Where one puts the film secretly (2,6)
11. In the oceans fifty marine creatures (5)
12. Supervise a piece of poetry in Old English (7)
13. The causes of gradual deflation in the sphere of transport (4,9)
18. The skill is to attempt aesthetic achievement (8)
19. Being in a true dilemma, was sorry afterwards (4)
20. Describing one who is unfortunately spotted (7)
21. Stone near a way in (5)
22 & 7Dn. Surround the chiefs - those who instigate mischief (4-7)
23. Hedge plant used for filling rough mattresses? (8)

Down

2. Don't spare the lubricant that comes from here (3-4)
3. Takes food down for the bird (7)
4. This allows people to cross the water for two games (7-6)
6. Furniture for the casualty nurse (7)
7. See 22 Across
8. As money, it's naturally a gift (6)
13. Southern tent-dweller to run around briskly (7)
14. A Turk likely to get sat on! (7)
15. When it's put in mortar a powdery substance results (6)
16. Erected properly - in the Perpendicular Style? (7)
17. Choose an artist to be the daughter of Agamemnon (7)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Throw overboard (8)
5. Staunch (4)
9. Baton (4)
10. Summing (8)
11. Teacher (5)
12. Take in (7)
13. Stupidity (13)
18. Counter-measure (8)
19. Look for (4)
20. Generous (7)
21. Coach (5)
22. Sharpen (4)
23. Gather (8)

Down

2. Deletion (7)
3. Irksome (7)
4. Foolish traditions (3,5,5)
6. Offering (7)
7. Behaviour (7)
8. Quoit (6)
13. Superficial (7)
14. Famous (7)
15. Last (6)
16. Quack remedy (7)
17. Particular (7)

Sudoku

	9		7		1		2	
6		4		2				1
				8	4		3	
3		2		5				6
			9		2			
7				6		1		2
	7						6	
4				9		8		7
	1		8		5		9	3

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	3	2	6	9	5	4	1	8
4	5	1	2	3	8	7	9	6
6	9	8	1	4	7	5	2	3
9	7	6	4	8	3	2	5	1
5	8	4	9	2	1	3	6	7
2	1	3	5	7	6	9	8	4
3	2	9	8	6	4	1	7	5
1	6	7	3	5	9	8	4	2
8	4	5	7	1	2	6	3	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Remote; 4 Spasms; 9 Instantaneous; 10 Ejected; 11 Lapse; 12 Staff; 14 Typed; 18 Emend; 19 Digests; 21 Cooling breeze; 22 Petite; 23 Corset. Down: 1 Railed; 2 Missed the post; 3 Toast; 5 Penalty; 6 Stop-press news; 7 Sister; 8 Study; 13 Faddist; 15 Tea-cup; 16 Adage; 17 Ascent; 20 Garbo. QUICK - Across: 1 Trance; 4 Reaped; 9 Replenishment; 10 Idiotic; 11 Needs; 12 Miner; 14 Merit; 18 Roast; 19 Outrage; 21 Scintillating; 22 Singer; 23 Plunge. Down: 1 Torpid; 2 Amplification; 3 Chest; 5 Enhance; 6 Premeditation; 7 Detest; 8 Wince; 13 Entitle; 15 Crisis; 16 Moult; 17 League; 20 Trail.

Quiz

1. Which old British construction can be seen in Arizonaís Lake Havasu City?
2. In which city is the Kelvingrove Art Gallery?
3. What type of creature is the frogmouth?
4. What was the Giotto space probe built to study?
5. Who won a directing Oscar for Cabaret?
6. Which country's parliament is the Althing?
7. Which Radio 4 presenter died in January 1994?
8. What is the day after Halloween called?
9. Who was the first boxer to win world titles at five officially-recognised weights?
10. Who was JFK's campaign manager in 1960?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Norman Tebbit; 2 Walnut; 3 Diane Keaton; 4 Brewer's yeast; 5 The Samaritans; 6 UEFA Cup; 7 Fossils; 8 Kendo; 9 Jack Slipper; 10 Illinois.

Niner: HARLEQUIN

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

25865 gives an animal,
958643 gives a bird,
1536784 gives a fish.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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50 per cent stamp duty paid on village detached

WITH 50 per cent stamp duty paid, this beautifully presented extended four-bedroomed detached family home in Copper Beech Drive, Wombourne, Wolverhampton is in a sought after village.

It is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £359,995.

With generous accommodation the majority of it on the first floor with gas central heating and majority double glazing.

The property is tastefully decorated and briefly includes a ground floor porch, reception hallway, bedroom four, WC and the garage. On the first floor there is an 'L' shaped lounge/diner, breakfast/kitchen, conservatory, master bedroom with en suite, two further bedrooms and a bathroom.

Contact DB Roberts & Partners on 01902 427257 or visit the website www.dbroberts.co.uk

Huge potential and ideal corner position

IN a sought after area, 26 Stockwell Road, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton is a generous-sized five-bedroomed detached house in a commanding corner position.

It is for sale through Rees Page at £350,000 with no chain.

The property would benefit from a scheme of refurbishment but has much potential, say the agents.

With majority double glazing and central heating, it has a driveway and double garage to the rear of the landscaped gardens. It includes a reception room, dining room, lounge, breakfast room, vintage kitchen, utility/store, cellar, five bedrooms and bathroom.

For further information contact Rees Page on 01902 577799 or visit www.reespage.net

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Spring Auction

6pm Tuesday
17th March 2015
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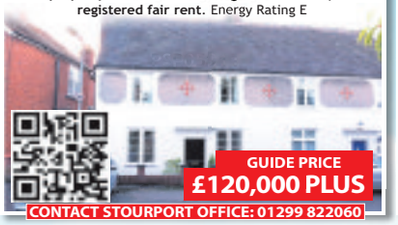
School Lane Stourbridge DY9 9LD
A semi detached investment cottage with the original parts probably over 200 years old, construction is of solid brick walls part rendered to front with pitched tiled roof. 2 reception rooms, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, garden. **The property is let on an oral Regulated** Tenancy at a **registered fair rent.** Energy Rating E



GUIDE PRICE £120,000 PLUS
CONTACT STOURPORT OFFICE: 01299 822060

School Lane Stourbridge DY9 9LD
A semi detached cottage, living room, kitchen, wc, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, garden.
The property is let on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy.
Energy Rating E

GUIDE PRICE £125,000 PLUS
CONTACT STOURPORT OFFICE: 01299 822060

School Lane Stourbridge DY9 9LD
A semi detached cottage, living room, kitchen, bathroom, 2 bedrooms, garden. Vacant possession upon completion.
Energy Rating E

GUIDE PRICE £125,000 PLUS
CONTACT STOURPORT OFFICE: 01299 822060

Wood Street Kidderminster DY11 6UB
A spacious four bedroom end of terrace house. Ex-off-licence on prominent corner position. Living Room. Dining Room. Kitchen. Cellarage. Four Bedrooms. Family Bathroom. Gas to radiator central heating. EPC: TBC

GUIDE PRICE £70,000- £80,000
CONTACT KIDDERMINSTER OFFICE: 01562 822244

Fort Mahon Place Bewdley DY12 2PB
A substantial and traditionally built two double bedroom detached bungalow. Hall. Bathroom. Recently refitted Kitchen. Living Room. Integral Garage. Driveway plus fore and rear gardens. Double glazed. Gas to radiator central heating. Energy Rating E

GUIDE PRICE £125,000- £140,000
CONTACT KIDDERMINSTER OFFICE: 01562 822244

Redstone Lane Stourport DY13 0JQ
A 3-bedroom link semi detached house requiring up-grading and re-fitting. Recessed porch, reception hall, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, south facing rear gardens, immense further potential, vacant possession upon completion.
Energy Rating D

GUIDE PRICE £100,000- £120,000
CONTACT STOURPORT OFFICE: 01299 822060

Shrawley Avenue Kidderminster DY11 7NP
A 3-bedroom semi detached "Wates" style pre-fabricated re-inforced concrete (PRC) house built around 1949 and having a large plot on the fringe of the Rifle Range Estate in Kidderminster. Reception hall, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, vacant possession upon completion. Energy Rating D

GUIDE PRICE £60,000- £70,000
CONTACT STOURPORT OFFICE: 01299 822060

St Cecilia Close Kidderminster DY10 1LW
A one bedroom apartment located on the seventh floor of this purpose built block offering spacious accommodation. Suiting owner/occupation or possible investment property. Hall. Bathroom. Double Bedroom. Living Room. Kitchen.
Energy Rating C

GUIDE PRICE £15,000- £20,000
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Tel: **01584 811999** Fax: 01584 819464
email: tenbury@mccartneys.co.uk

78 High St. Bridgnorth Shropshire WV16 4DS
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Village location for a spacious bungalow home

THIS detached, split-level three-bedroomed bungalow in Holly Close, Kinver, is presented to superb standards, having light and flexible living space.

It is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £299,995.

With double glazing and gas central heating, it includes a dining/kitchen, bathroom and shower room, utility and a good sized, level and private rear garden.

Holly Close is only a short distance from Kinver High Street, which has excellent amenities, and a short drive from Stourbridge. Lovely countryside walks over Kinver Edge are also available nearby.

For more details, call The Lee Shaw Partnership on (01384) 396066 or visit the www.leeshaw.com website.

Detached home has period features

AN OUTSTANDING detached residence in Dudley Road, packed with delightful original features, is within walking distance of Sedgley centre.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £249,950.

Featuring 'all seasons' coloured glass windows in the entrance hall along with 'Original Mosaic' tiled flooring, a 23ft fully fitted dining kitchen, cellar, fashionable master en suite shower room it also has a porch, living room with a fire in a cast iron type fireplace, conservatory, laundry room, three bedrooms (master with original fireplace), bathroom and gardens.

Contact Skitts Estate Agents on 01902 686868 or visit www.skitts.net

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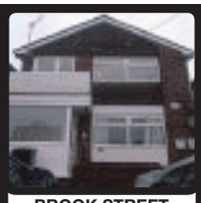

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Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, January 29, 2015

High hopes for new citycar

By David Banner

Suzuki has had a tough time in the past few years, and when pressed its UK importers tend to hold up their hands and put the blame squarely on global exchange rates.

Yes, those same exchange rates that saw Daihatsu pull out of the UK and Subaru discover the relative strength of the yen versus the pound made its cars as expensive as some BMWs and Audis.

We have every sympathy for Suzuki. Subaru were pretty much hosed for a while because all of its manufacturing base was in Japan, so they bore the full brunt of the fiscal fluctuations. Suzuki has boxed a bit cleverer and leveraged its longstanding association with Maruti in India to bring us the Celerio citycar. Can it compete with some very sophisticated rivals in the UK? More to the point, does it actually need to?

The 1.0-litre three-cylinder petrol engine develops a total of 66bhp at 6,000rpm and 89Nm of torque at 3,500rpm, so you're going to need to give the throttle pedal a bit of treatment to get anywhere.

Power goes to the front wheels via a five-speed manual gearbox at first, but we suspect that most UK buyers will want to talk to their dealer about matching the Dualjet engine technology to Suzuki's Auto Gear Shift. This system features an intelligent shift control actuator positioned at the top of the transmission that operates the gearshift and clutch automatically. With AGS, the driver can enjoy the ease driving of an automatic in city traffic, but without any loss in fuel efficiency or increase in CO2 emissions that would normally be the case with a conventional torque converter-equipped automatic transmission.

There's even a low-speed 'creep' facility which allows the car to move in gear without the accelerator being applied, ideal in slow traffic and when parking.

The Celerio probably isn't going to turn too many heads, being a fairly generic-looking citycar in the modern mould. That's not to say its styling lacks merit, just that it's nothing too adventurous. The most notable flourishes are probably the deeply sculpted flanks, with an arcing swage line that runs just below the door handles. The front grille is unusual, with a three-bar design that kinks upwards at each extremity into the big headlight pods.

Vast

The body measures just 3,600mm from stem to stern and 1,600mm wide, so parking it shouldn't present too much of a difficulty. A height of 1,530mm and a non-slanting roofline affords respectable headroom for occupants. The 2,425mm long wheelbase provides a tandem distance of 743mm, which gives plenty of space in the cabin for five occupants. The boot is vast for a citycar, with a capacity of 254-litres.

The Celerio is tasked with pensioning off both the Splash and the Alto in the Suzuki range, which is quite a weight of responsibility to land on its narrow shoulders. Built in Thailand, it's clearly targeting the value end of the citycar market.

Prices start at around £8,000 for the SZ3 version, rising to around £9,000 for the plusher SZ4.

'Suzuki has boxed a bit cleverer and leveraged its longstanding association with Maruti in India'

Standard specification highlights for the Celerio SZ3 include six airbags (driver, passenger, side and curtain), ESP stability control, air conditioning, alloy wheels, DAB Radio, CD tuner, USB, Bluetooth connectivity and remote central locking. The even higher equipped SZ4 model adds polished alloy wheels, rear electric windows, front fog lamps, body-coloured door mirrors and chrome front grille. The Celerio is offered in six colours, of which five are optional metallic finish and one a standard solid colour.

The Suzuki Celerio is always going to be overshadowed by state-of-the-art city slickers like the Volkswagen Up or the Renault Twingo, but it was never really designed to compete with the more high-end offerings of the sector. But after the Hyundai i10 and the Volkswagen Up, the biggest selling citycar in the UK in 2014 was the Suzuki Alto. The Celerio looks set to do even better than the Alto, with its super-low emissions and clever transmission.

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Subaru's pioneering Outback crossover reincarnates for the fifth time this year

The new Subaru Outback, the fifth-generation of the brand's pioneering crossover, will go on sale in the UK from April 1 priced from £27,995 (on-the-road).

Introduced in 1995 as the first ever crossover and spawning a whole range of copy cat models ever since, the Outback has continued to successfully combine the virtues of a tourer with those of an SUV, winning over drivers with its practical, all-road nature.

The on the road price range of £27,995 to £32,995 means the all-new Outback stays in the same price bracket as the outgoing version despite having new exterior design, a more spacious and higher quality interior and a range of advanced safety equipment and in-car technology. The new Outback also boasts a very generous standard specification.

Technology

New to the latest model, EyeSight is Subaru's advanced collision avoidance technology which acts as a 'second pair of eyes' for drivers, employing stereo colour camera technology to monitor the road and traffic ahead for potential hazards. This is the first time the technology has been made available in the UK and Europe.

The system's two colour cameras are located in front of the rear view mirror to detect the presence of vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and other potential hazards. EyeSight is fitted as standard to every Outback fitted with Subaru's Lineartronic (CVT) transmission, and includes autonomous Pre-collision Braking Control and Pre-collision Throttle Management, Adaptive Cruise Control and Lane Departure & Sway Warning.

While clearly maintaining the distinctive Subaru Outback identity, Subaru's designers strived to make the new model more dynamic while keeping true to its rugged cross-over roots.

From the front, the bumper integrated hexagonal grille and hawk-eye headlights maintain consistency with other models in the Subaru family, while the profile is a subtle evolution of the existing Outback.

More significant changes can be found on the inside. The new model's revamped interior uses a range of higher quality materials throughout, resulting in a much more premium cabin, complimented by a new range of factory-fit infotainment and sat nav systems. The interior is also more spacious for passengers.

There are two engines available in the UK – a pair of horizontally-opposed four-cylinder 'Boxer' engines, fitted deep in the engine bay to ensure a low centre of gravity for improved handling, despite the car's raised ground clearance.

Buyers can choose between a 2.0-litre turbo-diesel, producing 150 PS and 350 Nm torque, or a naturally-aspirated 2.5-litre petrol unit, with power and torque outputs of 165 PS and 235 Nm respectively.

Diesel engines will be offered with either a six-speed manual transmission or Subaru's Lineartronic (CVT) transmission; the 2.5-litre petrol engine is sold exclusively with Lineartronic.

There are two trim levels available in the UK – SE and SE Premium – which both offer a generous level of standard equipment.

SE models are equipped as standard with automatic LED headlamps and headlamp washers, cruise control, Active Torque Vectoring, 17-inch alloy wheels, heated front seats, electrically-adjustable driver's seat and privacy glass, as well as a 7.0-inch touchscreen infotainment system, incorporating satellite navigation, audio, smartphone connectivity and a rear view parking camera.

Petrol SE models also feature an emissions-reducing start-stop system and Subaru Intelligent Drive, which allows drivers to select different engine modes depending on road conditions for improved economy and performance.

SE Premium models add a sunroof, keyless entry and push-button start, 18-inch alloy wheels, leather seats and a powered rear tailgate for added functionality.

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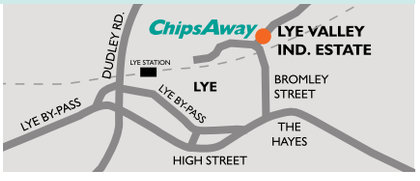

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An Express & Star supplement
Express & Star

Classified Ads

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3rd Generation Family Business & Monumental Masons
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Perton 01902 756850
Kinver 01384 873499

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Independent family run Funeral Directors
24 hour service
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Kingswinford 01384 296683
Hagley 01562 888041
www.nedowning.co.uk

lost & found

MISSING
Coseley area,
Two cats, brown, tabby and white, neutered male, microchipped also un-neutered grey tabby male cat.
07507 877502.

religious notices

christadelphian

BE NOT AFRAID...ONLY BELIEVE! Christ is Risen!, February 1, at 6pm, The Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford, Or write to The Christadelphians, FREEPOST WV1681 Kingswinford DY6 9BR for free information pack or ring 01384 886544 for recorded message.

1 Family

education & tuition

CLOISTERS
STOURBRIDGE TUTORS Est 1992
West Midlands Premier Agency
Home individual tutoring
LOCAL QUALIFIED TUTORS
Protection of Children Act regulated and Police checked
Primary, 11+, SATS, Secondary, GCSE, A, Deg, etc.
0121 212 4986
01902 671683
www.cloisterstutoring.co.uk
NEW TUTORS WELCOME

elderly & disabled

GOGO MOBILITY scooter, 4 wheels, fits in car boot, 2 years old, £120 ono. 01902 654419.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

gift ideas

FREE VALENTINE'S MESSAGE
Book your free linage message online at www.expressandstar.com/bookanad using discount code VAL100 or simply fill in the coupon in paper.
You can still place a boxed illustrated message for £10.00 by calling 01902 317878.

2 Leisure Time

bikes

SCOTT REFLEX 10 MOUNTAIN BIKE hard tail, as new, unwanted gift. £250 ono. 01543 468597.

caravans / motorhomes

CARIOCA 656
4/6 BERTH MOTORHOME 2005
2300cc, Diesel, 13,000 miles, MoT.
Bike Rack and Fiama Awning.
Large storage area.
Overcab double bed, bunk, dinette area, excellent condition
£18,295
07864 120406

LUNAR LX2000 460-2 2 berth caravan, end bathroom, CD, mover, awning, extras, £2,950. Telephone 07831 788954.

STATIC CARAVAN
On 5 star park, with views of the Malvern Hills, 140 acres, fishing pools, reluctant sale.
£11,500
07704 392028.

STATIC TWO bedroom caravan on Sunny Sands, Barmouth, excellent condition, £3,500 ono. Photos available. 0121 525 6316.

caravans wanted

CARAVAN WANTED
Can pick up as soon as possible.
07717 090817.

fishing

ALBRIGHTON ANGLERS LTD

This is your opportunity to join one of the Midlands leading Angling Clubs.
We have on offer superb fishing on all of our 11 locations including 8 pools, 2 stretches of the River Severn and a section of canal. All waters are within the areas of Wolverhampton, Staffordshire and Shropshire.
For more details call Roger 07746 227578 or Keith 07729 348819, between 6.30-8.00pm www.albrighton anglers.com

music shop

NEWMARK FUSION 3

CDJ DECK

As new.
Complete with case, mike and headphone and all leads in aluminium case.

£300.

01902 897954.

SEVERAL BUTTON KEY ACCORDIANS
Single row, double row and triple row, some as new, some used but in excellent condition, majority with cases.
From £100 - £350.
01902 897954.

45 YEARS PLUS DRUMMER AND RHYTHM/KEYBOARD

Looking for lead and bass, with vocals to form covers band.

Mainly for fun, occasional gigs.

Contact
Mike on 07557 762223
or Nigel on 01902 336171.

sports & leisure

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Online at
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what's on

antique fairs

ODDFELLOWS EVENTS
presents
ANTIQUE & COLLECTABLES FAIR
Sunday 1st February
8.30am - 3.30pm
at the
Holiday Inn Hotel, Walsall
M6 Junct 10, 5 mins from M54 & M5 WS2 0BS
Full Restaurant & Bar
Free Parking
Enquires 07754 109570
£1.50 otd
Wide range of stock incl, Millitary, China, Silver, Clocks and many more

3 Home & Services

antiques

WANTED
Old Radio Equipment, valves, amplifiers, radiograms, reel to reel, test gear, spares, etc.
01782 517278.

furniture

LEATHER SUITE 3 seater sofa, 2 chairs, good condition, tan, immaculate £350 ono. 01902 884900.

SOFA DFS WITH end lounger, on tv at £650, cream, 15 months old, £125 o.n.o. 01922 278747.

THREE SEATER settee and chair, cream material, never used, £100. 01543 324015.

in your garden

Top Soil, Building Sand
Paving/Concrete Sand
Decorative Gravels
Delivered Bagged or Loose
01902 893226

LEYLANDI HEDGING up to 8ft high required. Cash. Telephone 01902 330960.

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

CAR BOOT items for sale, clothes, books, toys, curtains, bedding, shoes, boots, plus much more. Offers over £150. 0121 553 3671.

TREADMILL/ROWING MACHINE. Excellent condition. Bargain price for both. £50 ono. 01902 410724.

WADKIN PLANER THICKNESSER 12ins x 7ins, 3 phase. Very good condition. £650 ono.
01902 896150.

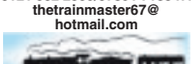
items wanted

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft •Lladro • Old coins • Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys • Clocks • Paintings • All silver • Chinese items • Old Ivory. • Military items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
0121 602 2569/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com



A BEST CASH PRICE PAID

ALL TOYS CARS/LORRIES WANTED. ALL Mamod/Wilesco/Bowmans
All conditions
Dinky *Corgi* *Spot-on*
Britains and Airfix
*Mamod / Wilesco Steam Engines * Star Wars Figures *
*Scalextric Pre 1970's
Tri-ang, cars or complete sets.*
*Old Enamel Advertising Signs * Railway collections*
Pre 1970 Annuals wanted, Beano, Dandy, etc
01902 745598 / 07984 159571

ALL BRASS / COPPER ornaments/brassware, all descriptions, miners lamps, old medals, dinky, corgi toys. 01902 745598.

FORD CAPRI, any model or condition considered. Cash waiting. 07544 768836.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS
Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection.
All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days.
Digital aerials, Sky installation.
Wall mounts & TV setups.
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specialists at your service

aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
1 aerial into 2 rooms £90
1 aerial into 4 rooms £130
Work Guaranteed
Same Day Service
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01384 429166
01543 439095
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07833 738857

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
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AB-Blinds
Super 6
6 Child Safe Verticals
Fitted from only £169
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A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

damp proof control

DAMP, CONDENSATION, WOOD-WORM, dry-rot control. 40 years exp. Free surveys. 01902 324727.

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UPVC BACK DOORS from £299, front doors from £389 fitted. Windows/Fascia's, 01922 442720.

electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

fencing

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SPECIAL OFFER
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Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

JEZ'S GARDEN SERVICES
Lawns cut, Borders, Garden clearances
Trees lobbed and shaped
Fencing, Slabbing...
Please call: 01384 403353 or 07929 600636

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

House Clearance and Removals
Eco Friendly,, We recycle up to 90%
We give and sell items for charity's
Free friendly quotes
Clear Out
0800 043 4550
clear-out@outlook.com

lock services

SECURE LOCKS Lock replacement doors/windows BS3621 insurance approved Closers/Fire doors,panic bars 07840467642 / 0793888970

logs

HARDWOOD/ SOFTWOOD SEASONED
LOGS FOR SALE
Loads/Bulk Bags from £60. Delivery available
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LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painter and Decorator
Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
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All aspects of plumbing work undertaken.
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07584 062483

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All aspects of plastering & Tiling. reliable, professional service
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www.pdpplastering.com

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Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
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or 07749 941319

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ABLE REMOVALS
Local & Distance
Domestic & Commercial
Competitive Prices:
Moves from only £99
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A1 KINGSWINFORD
REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES
Single items,
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Recession rates, FREE QUOTES
We take the stress away
40 years experience
07966 281957

CALL DEAN! Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/full house 1 item.07429 453209 / 01902 830870 01384 940260 / 01922 263460.

CALL IAN. Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances. Items large or small. Call: 01902 741546 or 07899 635852.

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

woodburners and stoves

WOODBURNING / MULTIFUEL Stoves. Flues, installation. Free surveys. Stourbridge 01384 390183. severnvalleystoves.com

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

PGS Roofing
All roofing work covered
CSCS
Members of the Confederation of Roofing Contractors and Checkatrade Fully insured and Fully Qualified 10 Year Guarantee Free and no obligation quotes.
ALL ROOFING WORK AND SERVICES UNDERTAKEN.
Card payments accepted.
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paul@pgsrooofing.co.uk www.pgsroofing.co.uk
01384 626578 / 07590 644555

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and chipped.
Call Greyhound Trust
01922 412212 or
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NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

COCKER SPANIEL pups, gold, first vac's, health checked, £375. 0797 2604503.

COLLIE CROSS Kelpie Pups, working parents, good temp. £100. 07890 892944/07974 877648.

GERMAN Shepherd pups, big boned, 8 weeks, long coated, parents can be seen. £225. 07975 626073

WESTIE PUPS boys and girls, first vac's health checked. £375. 0797 2604503.

5 Business & Farming

agriculture

FODDER BEET for sale, perfect condition, Wolverhampton area. 07768 648596.

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY and Taxation services for Small Businesses. Fixed fees. Call 01902 343200

ACCOUNTS, BOOK KEEPING, PAYROLL, VAT New start-ups welcome. Phone Clover on: 01384 459714 or 07715 510749.

6 Property

properties wanted

HOME CASH BUYER
WILL PAY 15K MORE
Complete within 7 days
Ring Paul,
07870 341089

A BETTER CASH DEAL PAID for your property every time. 01902 628047.

CALL US FIRST FOR THE TOP PRICE for your house. 0800 169 1118.

DON'T SELL Before calling me First. Call Richard now: 07756 022973.

FORGET THE REST We pay 100% of purchase price always 0800 085 6626.

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LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

World of Mobility
Manual Wheelchairs from £110
and Power from £1,200
SCOOTERS/ ELECTRIC BEDS
STAIRLIFTS FROM £1,400 FITTED
We offer excellent customer service and aftercare on all our products.
Showroom 108C Brettell Lane, Amblecote Stourbridge
DY8 4BS or call 01384 378252
OPEN MON-SAT 9-5 pm FREE PARKING AT REAR

properties wanted

DON'T DELAY CALL TODAY
for a fast cash offer
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0800 633 5288

Cash paid for your property
Guaranteed offer*
Free solicitors - no fees* NOW
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0121 308 7786
Call us 24/7
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looking for property in ANY CONDITION
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the name you can trust
Harrison Fowler
Any Property, Any Condition
- FREE Valuation
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- No Obligation
- No Fees • Fast Completion

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24 hours

WE PAY 100% OF PURCHASE PRICE EVERY TIME
BCH BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
We buy any house
- We are a family run local business.
- A fair offer from people you can trust.
- Buying properties for over 30 years.
- No fees - Free solicitors

We also buy Commercial & Industrial, Shops, factories, land, building plots....*even your garden!*
text GOAL to 88802 and we will call you back now.
Call Stan on SOLD
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*Subject to terms ** PI Group
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STOP WE PAY MORE
- 100% every time*
- Free Solicitors No Fees*
- Any Property, Any Condition*

*Subject to terms
SOLD
FREE PHONE 0800 313 4566 /01384 226086

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Buying property since 1984
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CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE
we can buy your house in 2 days
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wolverhampton properties

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in a mess? talk in confidence we can hep
BUY ANY HOUSE, ANY AREA, ANY CONDITION
Subject to terms & conditions
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We are a local independent company
- No Fees*
- Any property
- Any condition
- Free confidential service
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- Repossessions stopped
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*Subject to terms
Call Free 0800 169 1118 (24 hours) 01384 226087

One phone call
Solves all your problems
Sell your house now
a guaranteed offer, no fees, fast completion
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I pay 100% of purchase price
• Guaranteed offer* • Any condition
• Free solicitors • No fees*
FOR THE BEST PRICE ON YOUR HOME
Call 0800 783 2822 or 01384 226086
24 hrs GUARANTEED

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of trying to sell your house
Call the House Doctor
Now for the best price
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Its simple as that... you will get the best deal on your home from FIRST GENERAL HOMES
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Fast completion
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QUICK AND EASY
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CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!
Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years

accommodation to let

A FURNISHED room, own kitchen, TV, CH, cleaning, linen, all bills, £240pcm, no Dss, near KFC, off Stafford Road. 01902 374375.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

LARGE ONE BED modern flat, opposite Russells Hall Hospital. £380pcm. 07973 844617.

RUSSELLS HALL flat to let, age 60 +. Sheltered accommodation. 01384 456465.

LUXURY ONE bed bungalow, Coven Heath, ensuite, furnished, high spec, £600pcm no DSS. 01902 789488 or 07775 038895.

SMART ROOMS in shared house in Netherton. Single £85, Double £95pw inc bills. No DSS. Small dep. 01384 401747 / 07940 116130.

TWO BED HOUSE With ensuite with 2 parking spaces Dudley Port £550pcm. No DSS. 07886 357429.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

bungalows

TWO BUNGALOWS SEMI DETACHED KIDDERMINSTER
Both two bedroom.
In need of modernisation.
Substantial plot of land.
Four car workshop at rear.
Sold as one unit.
£295,000.
Telephone 01562 822266 (after 7pm).

houses for sale

LLANGYNIW, WELSHPOOL
Superb Chalet Bungalow. 3 beds. Fully residential. Site fees paid until Sept 2015. Lovely location. Must see to appreciate.
£75,000 ono.
01772 683438.

LOOK

STAFFORD
Executive 6 bed detached bungalow, in private road, adjoining two bedroom apartment. 4 baths, 2 balconies, stunning views, reduced by 35k for quick sale.
£485,000.
07967 058099.

mobile homes

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY
Two bed double unit Park Home
Enviable position overlooking canal in Cookley. Over 50's site.
£129,000 ono.
Telephone 01562 850838.

7 Jobs

building & construction

EXPERIENCED FACTORY WORKER Required must be able to assemble windows and doors Tel 01384 571315

TIME SERVED BRICKLAYER required. Employed direct. Working in Stourbridge area. For details phone 01384-423646.

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TOP GEAR Driver Training
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HGV C+E (ARTIC) & C (RIGID)
7.5T (C1) SMALL LORRY
CAR & TRAILER (B+E)
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1-2-1 TRAINING
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CPC Periodic Training for PCV & LGV from 7hr blocks - Full 35hrs
01902 744726 / 07831 646601

employment wanted

RETIRED TIME SERVED CARPENTER / JOINER
Requires casual / part time work. Own van / tools. Has been involved in general maintenance for last 12 years. CRB cleared.
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SAFE DRIVING FOR LIFE
"QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS"
FREE ASSESSMENTS • FREE THEORY TEST TRAINING
HGV, PCV, ALL LICENCE CATEGORIES.
DRIVER CPC COURSES &
TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT COURSES
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www.hgvdrivertraining.co.uk

full time - general

GARDEN MACHINERY Mechanic required 40 hours plus overtime. Mon-Sat. Tel: 01384 443499.

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BAILEY PAGEANT IMPERIAL 2002,
2 berth, end washroom, mover, AL-Ko stabiliser, full awning, cooker, blown air heating, hot water system,
£3,300 ono.
01299 250643.

CITROEN C4 VTR+ HDi 1.6, 11 months MoT, fsh, cruise control, air con, £3,800. 07796 274636.

KIA PICANTO SPICE, 2010, 20,000 miles, silver, full service history, first owner, MoT, abs, esp, air con, £3,500 ono. 07922 277820.

MERCEDES 180 KOM 06 plate, silver, petrol, tinted glass, MoT'd, SH, excellent condition. £3,495. 07944 438513.

Classified Ads

MERCEDES 180 KOM 06 plate, silver, petrol, tinted glass, MoT'd, SH, excellent condition. £3,495. 07944 438513.

MINI COOPER S
]04, 39k, red, top spec, heated seats, e/w, sensors, a/c, all leather, fsh, very good condition.
£4,950.
07794 572467.

RENAULT KANGOO AUTHENTIC 2004, wheelchair access, 16V, 1149cc, petrol, 21,000 miles. £1,950 ono. 01562 745080.

SEAT IBIZA 1.4
Petrol, 2010, one lady owner, fsh, 12 months MoT, CL, cruise, EW, AC, CD, 34k, very good condition
£5,500 ono.
01384 831961 or 07773 450020.

TOYOTA AYGO Sport, Automatic, excllent condition, silver 56 reg, long MoT, 15,000 miles, £3,950. 07840 848919

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8, 2008 plate, petrol, navy, fsh, 71,000 miles, nine months MoT, three lady owners, £2,350. 07890 387533.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8, 2008 plate, petrol, navy, fsh, 71,000 miles, nine months MoT, three lady owners, £2,350. 07890 387533.

VAUXHALL VECTRA CDTI, 2008, 76,052 miles, silver, abs, e/w, e/m, a/c, fsh, MoT, excellent sale due to new car, £2,950 ono. 01384 591947.

VW GOLF GT TDi 130 03 low miles, 1 previous owner, FSH, heated seats, all usual extras. Superb condition. £2,650 ono. 07976 583291.

VW POLO 1.2 (64bhp) 06 56, 5-dr, 67K, in red, CL, CD, abs, SH, recent service and MoT, low ins. £2,995. 07759 237779 / 01384 258061.

VW POLO 1.2S
2003, 03 plate, 5 door, hatchback, petrol, 83k, CD, air con, fsh, good, clean, excellent condition.
£1,950.
Telephone 01902 336421 or 07977 208733.

SHOWROOM CONDITION

VW TOUAREG 4 X 4
2008, auto / tiptronic, 47k miles, metallic black, cream leather, showroom condition, sunroof, sat nav, electric towbar, stainless steel twin exhaust, FSH, all usual refinements of a quality car.
£9,250.
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SHOWROOM CONDITION

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

FORD MONDEO ESTATE, 52 plate, 1.8 petrol, fsh, MoT, very good condition, £750. 07867 685569.

ISUZU TROOPER 3.1 Diesel, 4 x 4, R reg, 11 months MoT, used daily. Good condition. £1,000 ono. Genuine calls only. 01384 243085.

JAGUAR X TYPE V6, 2003, 2.0, 96,345 miles, racing green, fsh, alloys, CD, 2 miles from Jct1 M54, £895 ono. 07463 903204.

MAZDA MXK Sports 5 Speed, PAS, new hood (Cost £300) MoT, reluctant sale £500. 01902 670516.

NISSAN MICRA 1998, Automatic 11 months MoT, 99k, import so has AC, EM, EW front/back, 1000cc, £750 ono. 07572 236800.

PEUGEOT 306
1999, 129,000 miles, silver, MoT, central locking, diesel, alloys, CD, no rust, spares or repairs, used daily.
£350 ono.
07833 334999.

RENAULT CLIO BILLABONG, 2003, 1.2, 16v, e/w, e/m, MoT, black, abs, pas, sunroof, alloys, CD, very good condition, 103,000 miles. £900. 07843 416106.

RENAULT CLIO Grande, X reg, 1149cc, used daily, MoT March, £375 ono. 07542 357297.

SAAB 93 1.9TiD Sport, 2005, diesel, blue, 139,000 miles 3 previous owners, alloys, full MoT, £1,295. 07867 601027.

TOYOTA YARIS
2003, 87,600 miles, blue, electric windows, air bag, s/h, MoT, central locking, pas, alloys, stereo, CD, colour coded.
£1,400 ono.
07849 623117.

TOYOTA YARIS 998cc, 5-dr, silver, 03 reg, 82,200 miles, MoT till June 2015, £1,400. 01384 235902.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 16v, PAS, CL, CD, MoT, very clean car inside and out, ideal first car. £895. Please call 07973 831161.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 Red, 47,000 genuine miles, FSH, two owners, first to see will buy. £1,495. 07939 483221 / 01384 562971.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 SXi CDTi Diesel, 2004, black, e/w, radio, cd, MoT'd. service history, alloys. £1,450. 07954 419531

VOLVO S40 2.0 diesel, 2001 reg, silver, well maintained, economical, 50mpg, belts, tyres, breaks, alternator, £775 ono. 01952 583729.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

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For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
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(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

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general

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Women seeking men

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PAT 5ft 2ins, medium build, attractive, blonde hair, widow, seeking N/S, sincere gent for friendship and days out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416057**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel No: 0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399**

ALICE 36, tall and slim with long brown hair, outgoing and sporty seeks funny, intelligent guy to share active days and cosy nights. Age/looks not important. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416087**

LUCY, 32yrs, blonde lady seeks naughty boys of any age for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0905 002 1887 Box No: 413443**

DIANE 37, sensual, tactile and loving seeks tall male for interesting conversations and cosy intimate nights together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416085**

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box No: 415301**

BRIDGET 48, voluptuous, seductive and very saucy, seeks male for lots of TLC and to make very happy in return. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416083**

LUCY, broadminded 18yrs seeks discreet fun with men any age. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1941 Box No: 365051**

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional gent, GSOH, likes sports, socialising, good company, seeking female with GSOH for laughs, conversation and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415969**

SEXY brunette, mid 20's busty, adventurous broad minded seeks no strings fun. **Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box No: 361739**

ATTRACTIVE professional widow, 73, WLTM sincere caring gent, widower for friendship, meals in, conversation and to put a smile on our faces. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415951**

JANET, 36yrs Scottish lady, too shy to go out but loves to chat from home. Will answer all texts. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627442**

KAREN 50, widow, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871**

MELANIE, sophisticated solvent brunette wltm working man of any age, im 32yrs. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627443**

GWEN middle aged, 65-75, 5ft 2ins, likes theatre, country music, holidays, seeks N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415785**

LINDY, new to area, hoping to meet kind many of any age, looks unimportant. Im 43yrs blonde and petite. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627444**

ASIA very attractive slim single black 32yr female looking for fun times with god time guy with GSOH and a real passion for life and falling in love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415837**

PAMELA, married to boring man! Text only for fun phone frolics. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624149**

SARAH 31yrs looking for casual 1-2-1 no strings fun with broadminded bored male. Status unimportant, discretion and mutual respect essential. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415821**

JULIA, seeks fifty shades of grey! You should be strong minded and seeking fun. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627445**

LINDA uncomplicated female who loves the simple things in life, looking for N/S male with GSOH for nights in/out, no games, users or time wasters please. s **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415535**

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411329**

SUSIE bubbly blonde looking for fun. Age/looks unimportant but must have a sense of adventure. Can travel and accommodate. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624145**

PATRICIA widow 67, likes simple pleasures in life, seeks gent, N/S for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415685**

PHILLIPA 22yrs just left boarding school, hoping to meet experienced working class man for real life fun. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624147**

KAREN 50, widow, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male, **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767**

SLIM brunette 36yrs hoping to meet older gent for friendship, fun, maybe more. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624146**

GEM 34yr old pretty brunette with lovely big eyes and nice skin, many interests, WLTM kind tallish male, 30-50yrs for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415571**

PAMMY 42yrs, recently divorced and fancies becoming a "cougar". **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624148**

SYLVIA attractive blonde size 12 45yr old female looking for genuine companionship, someone to spend quality times with, enjoy music and cosy times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415543**

HOME alone far too often, attractive bubby fun good time girl 32yrs seeking male 30-50yrs for broadminded daytime fun. Let's rid the boredom! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415523**

SUE attractive, independent, confident female, sporty, petite, loves the Arts, good books, looking for romantic, sensitive nice guy for nice times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415501**

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

AMANDA 5ft 4ins slim fit attractive, enjoys the outdoors, nice wine, theatre etc. seeking romantic considerate soul mate to broaden my horizons. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415391**

SAM attractive single mum who really enjoys life and likes to be happy WLTM genuine single male/dad for mutual companionship, dates in/out and tlc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415381**

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KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

23YR old Asian female, seeks sugar daddy, any age for fun and much more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415367**

YOUNG looking female, likes rock music, concerts, theatre, seeks Rock male with similar interests for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415249**

MANDY very attractive, slim single mum 36yrs, employed, OHAC, looking to share some quality times with similar genuine kind hearted social male/dad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415409**

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773**

DIANE attractive singleton seeks male to have some fun with, meals out, cinema, dancing and just see were things lead from there. Age/race unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415373**

SHELIA Asian 20yr old female, very pretty, feminine with long hair, enjoys nights in or out, seeking mature white male 55plus for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415181**

MARGARET 39, attractive active female likes animals, reading, meals in/out, seeking considerate partner for good laughs, companionship, shared interests and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414727**

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fir, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, non drinker, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211**

BUBBLY larger than life 28yr old blonde bombshell, seeks large built male to fulfil my every fantasy! Give me a call; I will totally make your day maybe even your year. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414977**

BARBARA 38 slim sporty attractive blonde, varied interests, single and ready to date, seeks kind honest guy for shared interests, fun nights out, hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414967**

JULIE single petite attractive big blue eyed brunette, loves cooking a cosy meal in, nights out, searching for real love with genuinely nice guy. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414491**

GOOD looking professional lady, 56, enjoys the arts, country walks, meals out, seeks compatible, genuine, professional gent to enjoy the good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415007**

ANGIE 38yrs slim blonde, ex model with lovely long legs with shapely figure, fit, toned, sporty, confident but warm, WLTM similar perceptive, sensitive individual for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414723**

BECKY stunning big blue eyed 38yr old honest, caring and fun person looking for nice times with similar outgoing fun guy, status/age unimportant, **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414391**

NICOLA 32, blue eyes, petite, pretty brunette, shy at first, trustworthy, caring, varied hobbies, seeks male/single dad up to 40yrs for tlc possible ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414707**

CATH 37yr old very bored housewife seeking bored male for some fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414497**

TARA 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go all the way up to heaven, WLTM very appreciative confident male for adult fun. Contact me anytime. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414701**

KAREN petite 34yr old attractive blonde, likes pubs, clubs, meals out, gym, looking for honest caring guy who can make me laugh. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414373**

ANN looking for no strings adult fun, broadminded and great fun, blonde, attractive and discreet. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414363**

JANE 5ft5ins blue eyed attractive curvy mature student with happy disposition, enjoys meals or drinks in/out, keeping fit, walking, seeking genuine fun male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414229**

ARE you Mr Wonderful? Lesley attractive slim auburn haired fit lady who loves life and fully intends to live it to the full, seeking similar caring, patient man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414213**

KATY 26 slim beautiful discreet blue eyed blonde looking for mature gent for some uncomplicated fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414209**

ANNABELLE 29 slim tanned beautiful sophisticated sensual brunette, loves the high life, Champaign lunches, weekends away, seeks very own sugar daddy for sweet nothings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414191**

SARAH 38yr old bored blonde seeking single guys up for some good times, chats and discreet meets. Looking forward to hearing from you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414177**

EMS 32yrs petite young looking, pretty, likes swimming, walking, talking etc, seeking honest bloke or dad up to 40yrs for fun adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413853**

NATALIE 22yrs attractive brunette nurse, very slim, athletic figure, many likes, few dislikes, WLTM male up to 38yrs to stay at home and have some fun with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413839**

MAZ 36 petite curvy big blue eyes, loves music, beach walks, cosy nights with good conversation and nice wine, seeks similar likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413571**

HELEN feisty redhead with many interests including beach walks and quiet nights in, looking for male with GSOH and a passion for travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413869**

ANN slim attractive widowed but not past being loved lady, loves travel, country good conversation, WLTM kind genuine male, 35-65 for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413453**

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NEW YEAR NEW LOVE

JANET tall beautiful brunette, slim 12, separated, enjoys life, no hang ups, wanting quality time, friendship and possible romance with similar guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413415**

ANITA seeking nice man in the West Midlands, 50-70 for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413765**

SONYA slim attractive vibrant lady with GSOH, social nature, fit/active, WLTM N/S male up to 60yrs for romantic genuine respectful relationship, loving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413441**

EMMA petite slim blue eyed blonde 22yrs, likes cinema, dancing/music, just chillin, seeking easygoing male for fun and good times but nothing serious. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413207**

EUROPEAN beauty romantic, caring, attentive, looking for loving male to enjoy warm loving relationship with, call me to find out more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413013**

KAREN 34 blue/green eyed size 12 attractive brunette who loves pubs, cosy nights in, kids, seeking special honest guy/dad for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413005**

ROSA 27 sexy senorita seeking older handsome prince charming to whisk me off my feet, enjoy fun times, improve my English and fall in love with. Age/race unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412927**

RITA attractive blonde with a very kind heart seeks special man to share my life with. Please get in touch if like me you are fed up with always being the single friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412987**

JAN 5ft8ins slim pretty lady in great shape, open-minded, laidback, GSOH, OHAC, many interests, WLTM someone for cuddling up with and to share good and bad times. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412931**

ANN slim attractive N/S lady who is easy to get along with, looking for romantic interesting man for new adventures together, hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412911**

JULIE loving, caring, honest, seeks real gent to share conversation and have a great time, friendship/relationship, who knows? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412777**

ATTRACTIVE 49yr old divorced lady, looking for honest, reliable man for LTR, 49-60. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409955**

SALLY stunning lady looking for dinner dates, partying and generally having a good time with generous man looking for his mojo! No strings, go on call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412599**

DEBS petite attractive auburn haired, good listener, romantic, enjoys socialising, cosy nights in with Mr Right, seeking similar caring N/S single dad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412387**

JAN slim curvy professional warm, affectionate, looking to fill full time vacancy with similar male who loves cuddles/kisses and bikes for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412167**

ATTRACTIVE slim brunette, 47, N/S, seeks tall, slim male for a cut above the average relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412725**

KAREN pretty blonde, short in stature, big personality, keeps fit, loves dogs, seeking honest, caring male who can make me laugh. Nothing too serious just fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412377**

JEAN petite female who enjoys golf, days out, cosy evenings in, holidays, WLTM older male in his 60's with a good personality and big heart. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412359**

JULIE really fun loving slim pretty female 38 looking for nice guy to go out with, get to know and hopefully enjoy a relationship with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411517**

GWENDOLINE honest, trustworthy, seeks caring gent who enjoys cinema, theatre, holidays and nights out for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412293**

DIANE voluptuous curvy and all woman, loves dancing, walking, cosy nights in, WLTM nice man for friendship, hopefully leading to something more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412321**

SARA bored blonde looking for single gents for fun, chats and meets, looking forward to hearing from you, don't be shy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412055**

EMMA petite young looking 31yr old attractive single brunette, loves walking, talking, music, seeks honest romantic 30-40yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412037**

ANNABELL 29 slim sophisticated well travelled interesting sensual fit brunette with lots to offer seeks older male to appreciate and treat me well. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412177**

KAREN slim, tall, attractive 36yr old normal female who likes shopping, socialising, nights in/out seeking thoughtful genuine male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412041**

KIM 25yrs feminine, pretty, big blue eyes, GSOH, varied interests, likes romantic beach walks, cosy nights in, seeking honest loving man for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411777**

CAROL young 47, caring, loyal, likes music, concerts, cinema, theatre, seeks male with similar interests for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411919**

PROFESSIONAL black lady, likes cooking, music, countryside, seeking honest, reliable gent, possibly farmer for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411763**

VICKY 37yr professional, mum to one, sensual and very attractive, looking for a real man, tall, fit, sincere and passionate to enjoy each other's company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411695**

LUCY beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs, seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of life with, age, status and looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411691**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

PAUL 56, works part time, seeking nice lady, 55-65 with GSOH, honest, genuine and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416017**

MALE 49yrs, N/S, likes gym, meals out seeking soul mate 40-50. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4626867**

SEAN looking for female to share a coffee, pub, clubs and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414549**

MALE 69, laidback, easy going, GSOH, likes golf, nights in, seeking lady, 65-72 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416029**

MALE widower seeks honest female, non smoker, who likes dogs music reading and quiet relaxing times. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4625673**

NICK 52, 6ft, slim, genuine, seeking slim female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415881**

GENT 53, 5ft 11ins, brown eyes, distinguished, seeking attractive lady, 30-45 for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415809**

Who's caught your eye?
Let them know you might be interested by sending them a WINK...
Simply Text: WINK 26 then send to 80098

MATTHEW, 43 widower, business manager, solvent, reasonable looks but lonely. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624150**

45YR old male, 5ft 10ins, muscular, outgoing, adventurous, genuine, seeking lasting loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415873**

JAS 40, looking for attractive young female for good times and socialising. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415805**

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MATURE male, young looking, many interests, GSOH, seeks similar male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413953**

PAUL 69, seeks male 50-70 for discreet adult fun. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4626882**

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Villa victory is the Cherries on the top

Villa 2 Bournemouth 1

Football

CARLES Gil helped fire Villa into the FA Cup fifth round with a stunning goal on his full debut.

The Spanish midfielder's classy first goal for the club put the hosts ahead against the battling Cherries, who had troubled Villa in the first half.

Andi Weimann's second-half strike – his first goal since November – then proved crucial as Villa extended their lead.

Callum Wilson replied deep into stoppage time but the visitors ran out of time to mount a comeback.

Villa's meeting with the Cherries carried all the appearance of another potential upset on a weekend of many – but once Gil had broken through it was a relatively comfortable win for Lambert's side.

Eddie Howe's Championship leaders did scare Villa, though, with Kieran Richardson clearing off the line from Shaun MacDonald and Eunan O'Kane twice going close.

The win was just the third time Villa had scored more than once this season and eased the pressure on boss Paul Lambert.

The Scot made six changes to his Villa side, Shay Given and Leandro Bacuna starting, while Bournemouth made eight changes, with just Steve Cook, Tommy Elphick and Harry Arter keeping their spots.

The hosts announced Fabian Delph's new four-and-a-half year deal before kick-off but it did not serve to inspire his team-mates.

Bournemouth began brighter, even if Weimann headed Alan Hutton's cross wide after eight minutes, and the Cherries blew their first big chance .

Arter found MacDonald and he rounded Given, only for the covering Richardson to stop his weak goalbound effort.

Jores Okore mopped up and Villa immediately broke which ended with Weimann firing wide from 25 yards.

wo minutes after the restart. Benteke seized on a loose pass and evaded two challenges before Gil fired into the side netting.

However, the Spain Under-21 international did break the deadlock on 51 minutes with a beauty. He collected the ball before cutting inside, easily beating Cook on the right, and curling a wonderful strike into the top corner.

Villa doubled the lead on 71 minutes through Weimann. The Cherries did pull a goal back through Wilson .

Tividale to report 'illegal approach'

TIVIDALE will report Banbury United for an illegal approach for striker Deqwon Ebanks.

The 19-year-old forward has confirmed he is staying with the Evo-Stik Division One South side after talks with boss Ian Long but Tividale accused Southern Premier strugglers Banbury of speaking to Ebanks without permission.

Tividale claim that Banbury announced on their website they had signed the former Birmingham and Hereford player and they Tividale received the necessary seven days' notice.

"We believe that Banbury United held talks with Deqwon Ebanks without being granted permission.

"Tividale Football Club are extremely disappointed by their actions and will be making the County FA awareof the dialogue between all parties concerned." Long was delighted to keep hold of the promising youngster.

"Like Jordan Archer, Deqwon recognises the potential here and the togetherness shown at this football club from top to bottom," said Long.

"Deqwon has all the attributes to be a very, very good footballer. He's a strong, powerful player."

Anichebe proves to be Albion talisman

Blues 1 Albion 2

THE Baggies found an unlikely Cup talisman in the shape of Victor Anichebe.

Football

His laid-back style can frustrate supporters, team-mates and managers alike. However, his power and eye for goal has now played a key part in guiding his side to the last 16. And Saturday brought a classic Anichebe display.

He was languid at times, downright lethargic at others yet still good enough in the moments that mattered to win a keenly-contested game for his side and move them a step closer to a big day out.

If only Pulis could unlock the rich potential of the big Scouser on a more regular basis and convince him that his body is stronger than he thinks, his current striker search might take on a less desperate look.

There were times when Pulis was apoplectic on the touchline with his team's sloppiness, especially in a second half in which their neighbours and hosts bombarded them with the kind of barrage that seemed certain to force a replay.

There was no inferiority complex about Gary Rowett's team despite the one-division gap between the sides and they played their full part in an intriguing encounter.

Yet they found their former goalkeeper Ben Foster in good form after he had replaced another ex-Blue in the injured Boaz Myhill, and their only goal came when Albion committed a rare defensive lapse late in the first half to doubtless ensure a half-time tongue-lashing from the ever-demanding Pulis.

Albion should have gone into the interval looking comfortable.

The Baggies threatened first when Saido Berahino lashed an early shot into the side netting but the game had struggled to get going when the young striker turned provider for Anichebe's opener on 25 minutes.

Berahino's through-ball found his strike partner in the area and Anichebe beat Blues keeper Darren Randolph, who should have done better, at his near post. And the visitors looked to be cruising when Anichebe doubled their lead 10 minutes later with a virtual carbon copy goal.

This time he collected a Berahino pass in a slightly more central area, outmuscled Paul Robinson and placed a shot inside the far post with the aid of a slight deflection..

Former Albion man Lloyd Dyer made the goal with a smart first-time cross from the left and Jonathan Grounds converted from close range..

One week on and Wolves wilt at Molineux

Dave Edwards takes on defender Tal Ben Haim during the goalless match at Molineux

Wolves 0 Charlton 0

THEY say a week is a long time in politics but it seems the same is true of football, certainly for Wolves.

Seven days on from the joyous scenes at the end of the Blackpool game that provided a fitting send-off for Sir Jack Hayward, Wolves failed to produce a fitting finale.

In fact, the 23,487 inside Molineux will know it was a lot worse than that as they digested the news that their bitter rivals had their eyes on their best player in Bakary Sako, who was much missed.

If the former owner and chairman was watching on, he would have had a wry smile at the chants of 'thumbs up for Sir Jack' because he'd have felt it was more of a thumbs-down moment in his beloved team's quest for Premier League football.

Wolves huffed and puffed their way through this fixture, which was every bit as dull and grey as the the Wolverhampton skyline.

Head coach Jackett had called for high energy and a greater crispness to their game.

But for the second match in a row, his side lacked sufficient tempo and urgency to earn the right to put the game to bed early on. Seven days earlier, the breakthrough always seemed within sight but they found Charlton made of tougher stuff.

Cricket club steps up to the oche

HALESOWEN Cricket Club will step up to the oche when they host a special event with top darts celebrity Wayne Mardle on Wednesday April 29.

Mardle, a former World Championship semi-finalist and now a Sky Sports pundit, will appear at the Seth Somers Park venue in what promises to be an entertaining night for Cricket and Darts fans, members and players alike. Mardle is widely regarded as one of the best exhibition players around.

Tickets are now on sale for the event, which also features Mardle's Sky Sports colleague Nigel Pearson who will host the evening.

And there's a chance to play Mardle with a raffle on the night to stand alongside 'Hawaii 501' on the oche – as well as a question and answer session.

Said Mardle: "I'm really looking forward to the event and I always have fun on the exhibition circuit."

There will also be an auction of sporting memorabiliaSeat numbers are limited so contact the club on 0121 550 2744, or contact a Halesowen CC official. Tickets can be ordered at sportstalkevents.co.uk in the box office.

Jackett in warning over Sako

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett has warned Albion their interest in winger Bakary Sako is unwelcome.

But the head coach admitted if the Baggies – or any other Premier League side – met the Molineux board's valuation, discussions with the player would then take place.

Jackett insists there have been no bids yet for the 26-year-old, who is out of contract at the end of the season.

But Albion sources have already confirmed their interest – and Villa and QPR are also thought to be looking.

Sako did his value no harm by scoring a cracking opener in Mali's 1-1 draw against the Ivory Coast.

La Parra is settling in at Wolves

WOLVES winger Rajiv Van La Parra insists he has adjusted to the Championship and is only going to get better.

The23-year-old wide-man believes he will only improve after adapting to the English game.

"Coming over here from another country and adapting for a different style of football was going to take time," he said.

"But the more games I've played, the more I've done that and I think it can get better and better.

"If you're in the kind of flow I'm in and the team are in you just want it to carry on." Van La Parra is also happy to play up front after being used in a more central role recently.

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Govier is the last piece for Heathens

CRADLEY have finalised their squad for the new Speedway season by signing teenager Tyler Govier as their stand-by rider.

Govier, aged 18, will be used on the occasions when a Heathens reserve is unavailable and, although his opportunities will be limited, he is excited by the challenge of joining the reigning champions.

Having been handed the opportunity to join the "best club in the National League", he is keen to build on the experience he has gained with Buxton and Devon over the past two seasons.

Said Govier: "I'd like to thank the club for giving me the opportunity, and enabling me to be part of such a great club.

"Cradley is the best club in the National League, they've been really successful over the last few years and the chance to be part of that was something I just couldn't turn down really.

"I'm really looking forward to getting started, and hopefully I can take the opportunities I'm given."

Govier will join his new team mates for the first time at Cradley's press and practice on Wednesday, March 11 – followed by the club's season launch event that same night at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill.

Hackett makes double swoop

STOURBRIDGE boss Gary Hackett has continued to revamp his squad after signing two defenders.

Tyrone Williams has joined on a month's loan from Kidderminster Harriers, while former Albion youngster Luke Connolly has also arrived at Amblecote from Leamington.

The 20-year-old Williams, who progressed through the Harriers academy, has had first-team experience on loan at Redditch United and Sutton Coldfield Town.

Williams, who joins Harriers' Reece Hales at the Evo-Stik Premier club, will initially be with Stourbridge until February 14.

Connolly, 21, had a spell in Sweden after leaving Albion and then joined Solihull Moors on returning to England before switching to Leamington. The Brakes will retain his Conference registration.

Pulis brings in tough new training regime

Football

ALBION keeper Ben Foster has lifted the lid on Tony Pulis' tough new regime at Albion and insisted: "Nobody gets away with anything now".

Foster says the new Hawthorns head coach has tightened up on discipline and put in place a "brutal" new training regime to get players fitter.

The Baggies are unbeaten in four games under Pulis after Saturday's 2-1 FA Cup win at Birmingham.

Foster, who worked under Pulis previously at Stoke, said: "He lets nobody have rest days or slack off – nothing like that. Everybody is training to their maximum potential every day and everybody is looking a bit fitter and sharper.

"We get a Sunday off, which is a nice family day, but when we're in in the week it's hard work and it's a big step up from what we have been doing in recent years and I really like it.

"That is Tony's way. I knew that before. He's so professional, so thorough and he thinks everything through down to the minutest detail. If you're somebody who is willing to work hard, be professional and do it the right way then you'll fit in, and if not you haven't got much of a chance with him.

"I would say he is just onto players a bit more.

"Nobody really gets away with anything now."

"Maybe coming in on a Monday when you haven't got a game until Saturday and you're still maybe a bit sore from the game on a Saturday, maybe before you could have had a little rest day and taken it easy.

"You don't get that now. It is brutal but I love it. I think it's fantastic. If I was a manager I would be like him. It's great.

"You've got to treat football players like kids sometimes. If you give them an inch they will take a mile – it's amazing.

"He has set up a brilliant fines system which has already recouped a good bit of money and people will be looking over their shoulders and not slipping up anymore."

Foster played his part in the derby at the weekend and while he conceded a goal from Blues defender Jonathan Grounds he saved two long-range efforts late in the game from substitute Demarai Gray.

STOUR PUT ON HULL OF A SHOW

Stourbridge 53 Hull RUFC 22

STOUR blitzed the visitors mercilessly in the first half scoring in the first minute.

A try on the board within the opening minute and the bonus point in the bag by the 21st. GaryDipple helped himself to three tries while Drew Harper bagged a brace.

Rugby

The visitors must have feared the worst when they turned round 36-5 down but Stour were guilty of taking their foot off the gas again in the third quarter and it was no less than the visitors deserved when they scored their fourth try at the death.

But Stour take a much-needed bonus point victory and confidence booster as the squad is bolstered by new arrivals and easing injury woes.

Stour stormed out of the starting blocks, running the ball at pace to test the visitors' defences.

Barged

With less than a minute on the clock the ball reached captain Nigel Mukarati who barged his way over out left.

Caolan Ryan's conversion glanced off the left upright but it was to be his only miss of the afternoon as he slotted the next eight shots at goal.

As the pressure built the scrum Hull's pack were penalised.

A recycled ball allowed Dipple to cross in the corner.

Stef Shillingford hacked on a loose Hull pass and regathered. The visitors got enough numbers back to hold out some short drives but their wide defences were all at sea and a couple of well-worked cut-out passes put Harper clear in the same corner.

Great breakdown work turned over a Hull attack, the ball was worked to Bressington who made big inroads down the right before it was worked to Harper who took a return scoring pass.

With only their lineout functioning well Hull kicked to the corner and went for a catch and drive, replacement lock Joe Stafford sneaking unnoticed under the narrow side defences.

Dipple bounced one defender and ran around another to score under the posts.

A penalty saw Ryan slot home and he bagged another on in the next period.

Prop Adam Macklin scored next followed by Dipple who scored his hat-trick.

Hull's Jamie Clark then scored from a driving maul.

Stour hit back though when a Ryan tapped penalty produced a short-range try for Moore. With just seconds left Hull's Tom Price earned them a bonus point.

Stourbridge's flanker Eji Uzoigwe is tackled by the Hull defence during the home clash

Brown is the hero of match

Stamford 2 Stourbridge 3

FORMER Albion forward Kayelden Brown was the two-goal hero as Stourbridge claimed the points at Stamford.

The outcome was on a knife edge at 2-2 when Brown finished well on 78 minutes after substitute Luke Benbow sent a pinpoint cross to him.

Earlier, the Glassboys had thrown away a two-goal lead to go into the break on equal terms in the Evo-Stik Premier clash.

Brown gave them the lead on four minutes when he got on the end of a Drew Canavan free-kick and Canavan was again the provider on 28 minutes when he slipped the ball through for Brian Smikle to fire past keeper Andy Stevens.

But Stourbridge carelessly let the home team back in the game, with pressure from Jordan Smith in the box stopping visiting goalkeeper Dean Coleman from collecting the ball and Nathan Fox scrambling the ball home.

Five minutes before the break, Smith found himself in space on the edge of the area and half volleyed the ball home.

Villa and Albion get home call

ALBION and Villa have been handed home advantage in the only two guaranteed all-Premier League ties in the draw for the fifth round of the FA Cup.

The Baggies' reward for beating Birmingham City is to be paired with West Ham, while Villawill host old foes Leicester in the ties over the weekend of February 14-15.

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